

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

During the past week the Women's Social and Political Union have been busy fighting the Government in Chelmsford, and in carrying on educational work all over the country. Owing to the close proximity of the Chelmsford constituency to the Metropolis a specially large number of workers have been available for working this by-election. These have been organised and used to the very best advantage by "General" Drummond, who has herself taken charge of the Northern half of the constituency, while deputing to Miss Higgins the Southern half, whose centre is the town of Brentwood. Local testimony proves that their efforts have been attended with the greatest success. According to the *Essex Weekly News*, "the Suffragettes are the brightest, sunniest, happiest people

that could possibly be met," and, according to the *Observer*, they have won the hearts of the people of Essex.

Confident of Success.

Never has any constituency been worked with such thoroughness by the W.S.P.U. The demonstration on Saturday, effected by the invasion of the constituency in motor omnibuses, proved most attractive, and enabled a large number of London friends to take part in the contest. The people have proved themselves greedy to learn about the movement, and several thousand copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN have been sold in the constituency. We look forward with every confidence to the result, which will be declared after we go to press. We believe that this will prove the striking influence that the women have had upon the campaign.

Events in Parliament.

During the last few days the fortunes of the Liberal party have been seriously affected by the introduction of a new Education Bill and by the rejection of the Licensing Bill by the House of Lords. Before the latter event the Liberals were cheerfully speaking of carrying the Session on until half-way through January, in order to complete the discussion of the new measure. Now that the Licensing Bill has been thrown out, they propose once again to curtail it, and disperse before Christmas. Woman Suffragists will see that what can be done for other questions can also be done for Woman Suffrage, and they are demanding that the Government should sit over Christmas, in order to carry through its remaining stages the Woman Suffrage Bill. A few days of the House of Commons would suffice for this measure, so urgently needed, to be carried into law.

Prospects of the New Reform Bill.

The Liberal papers have been busy discussing the present situation with regard to the House of Lords, some of them advocating an immediate dissolution, others urging that a number of other measures should be carried through the House, and that the principle of "filling up the cup" should be adopted, so that a strong case can be made on which to go to the country. In the *Daily News* of Thursday last the following passage occurs:—

No one, we imagine, is so simple as to suppose that the Lords will eventually allow us to improve our chances, by accepting a democratic reform of the franchise.

—a prophecy which is in accordance with Christabel Pankhurst's views that the Reform Bill, if ever introduced, is never intended to be carried. From this women will learn the folly of trusting to the Liberal Government to carry Woman Suffrage before the next General Election, unless it is compelled to do so by the determination of the people. The women are also beginning to realise that unless this action be immediate, they will stand to be left out in the cold when next the suffrages of the electors are sought for.

Campaign throughout the Country.

A most extensive campaign has been waged during the week all over the country. A great meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, was held on Wednesday, November 24, which was addressed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe. Several thousand people were present, and a collection amounting to over £45 was taken. In Plymouth, on Friday, the Guildhall was crowded by an audience who listened with rapt attention to Miss Mordan, Miss Annie Kenney, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Meanwhile, women have been busy preparing a welcome in Yorkshire for Mrs. Baines on her release from prison, and other meetings have been arranged in different parts of the country, including a special campaign in Scotland which is being organised for the second week in December, when Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be the principal speaker.

N.W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

To-morrow, December 4, Mrs. Tanner will be released from Holloway Gaol at 8 o'clock, after serving two months' imprisonment. We are specially anxious that a large number of friends should assemble to give her a right royal welcome as she comes out of prison, to show their indignation at the exceptionally long term which was given to her for no reason, in spite of the fact that she was a first offender. The arrangements will be similar to those on the last occasion, but as Mrs. Tanner is an Irishwoman, an attempt will be made to introduce an Irish element into the rejoicing. Following the band will be an Irish jaunting car with driver and girls in Irish costume. After, Mrs. Tanner in a phaeton drawn by a pair of greys. And after this the brakes.

Tickets for the brakes, 6d. each; for the breakfast, 2s., can be obtained of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. These should be taken at once, in order that proper arrangements for accommodation may be made.

Release of Mrs. Baines.

The next prisoner to be released will be Mrs. Baines, whose six weeks dates from the commencement of the Assizes, November 5, and who, according to the usual remission of one-sixth of the sentence, will be released from Armley Gaol on December 11. She will be met in Leeds by a party of friends, and a breakfast will be given her there. On Saturday morning she will travel up to London, arriving at King's Cross at 1.5 p.m. There she will be met by a party of London friends, who will give her a welcome in the name of the London members, and will take her to Trafalgar-square, where a special meeting will be held from 2 o'clock till sunset (3.49). This will be addressed by her and other speakers. As many friends as possible are invited to take part in the welcome. The procession from King's Cross to Trafalgar-square will be on foot.

At Homes in the Queen's Hall.

The last two of the Monday afternoon At Homes of the current year will be held as usual in the large Queen's Hall, on Mondays, December 7 and 14. There will be no At Homes on Mondays, December 21 and December 28 or January 4, but on January 11 the At Homes will recommence in the large Queen's Hall, when Mrs. Pankhurst, recently released from prison, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, as well as Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, are expected to speak. Owing to the very large crowd that will probably be present, a charge will be made for certain portions of the hall. The front row of the stalls will be charged for at 2s. 6d. each, and the whole of the first gallery will be charged for at 1s. a seat. The remainder of the hall, including the orchestra, will be free.

The Queen's Hall Meeting.

A meeting will be held in the large Queen's Hall, London, on Thursday evening, December 17. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be in the chair, and the other speakers will be Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Gladice Keevil, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence. Tickets are in great demand, and should be applied for at once, prices 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

"Votes for Women" Bound Volume.

There are now only twelve copies left of the bound volume of VOTES FOR WOMEN, containing the issues from October 2, 1907, to September 24, 1908. These are still offered for sale at the price of 10s. each, post free, 10s. 6d. If after the whole of these are exhausted there is a demand for further copies, the January, 1908, number will have to be reprinted at considerable expense, and this will enable 25 further volumes to be bound. These will be sold at 12s. 6d. each. If after these are exhausted there is still a further demand, other issues will have to be reprinted, and the price still further increased in order to cover the necessary outlay. Orders, therefore, should be sent at once to the publisher, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. Readers who have copies of any of the issues prior to August are asked to send them at once to the publisher, to make up sets for binding. Full price will be paid for copies in good preservation.

Women who are willing to help in the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN are asked to call at the office, 4, Clements Inn, and ask for Mrs. Baldock, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings at 10 o'clock. Those who can help in the theatre queues should call at the office between 6 and 7 p.m.

Christmas Presents.

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN are asked to make a point of buying their Christmas presents from the Woman's Press, 4, Clements Inn. Many useful and pretty gifts are on sale, and at prices to suit all purses, among them being motor scarves, ties, belts (with "Haunted House" buckles), purse bags and harpins, and chenille and silk cords, for neck wear, at 1s. each, all in the purple, white and green, and the Boadicea and Shamrock brooches, the latter 6d. each.

The Shelley Calendar, arranged by Miss Kerr, for 1909, is ready, and can be obtained for 1s. The Christmas cards reproducing the beautiful banner by Laurence Houseman are also ready, the price is 6d. each for single copies; larger quantities: 25 for 10s. 6d.; 50 for £1; 100 for £1 17s. 6d. The penny Christmas card will be issued in the course of a few days.

A large number of pamphlets and leaflets can also be obtained from the Woman's Press.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Up to December 10.

Dec.	Thur. 3	Volunteers wanted	11.30 a.m.
	Manchester, "Votes" Corps	Miss Macanlay, Miss Canning	12 a.m.
	Chelsea, Sloane Square	Bowes Park W.S.P.U.	2.45-4.15
	Wood Green, Small Unity Hall	Miss Mordan	3.30 p.m.
	Plymouth, Drawing-room Mtg.	Miss Elsie Howey	4-6
	Palgerton, At Home, Masonic Hall		
	Kensington, King Street	Open-air Meeting	6.45 p.m.
	Kensington, Westbourne Grove	Open-air Meeting	6.45 p.m.
	Notting Hill Gate	Open-air Meeting	7 p.m.
	Manchester, Drawing-room	Mrs. Martel	
	Meeting, Whalley Range		
	Bradford, Daisy Hill Council School	Miss Adela Pankhurst	7.30 p.m.
	Wolverhampton, At Home, Baths Assembly Rooms	Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Law	8 p.m.
	Streatham, High School Hall, Pinfold Road	Miss N. E. Smith, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Macanlay	8 p.m.
	London, At Home, Small Queen's Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	8-10
Fri. 4	London, Release of Mrs. Tanner, Holloway Gates		8 a.m.
	London, Breakfast, Inns of Court Hotel	To welcome Mrs. Tanner	9.15 a.m.
	Gateshead, High Level Bridge	Miss New	12.15 p.m.
	London, Westbourne Grove	Open-air Meeting	3 p.m.
	Forest Gate, Lantern Lecture		
	Plymouth, At Home, Royal Hotel	Miss Elsie Howey, and others	4-6
	Walsall, Women's Meeting, I.L.P. Institute	Miss New	7 p.m.
	Kensington, Nevein Place	Open-air Meeting	7 p.m.
	Wandsworth, East Hill	Miss Naylor	7.30 p.m.
	Bradford, Undercliffe Council School	Miss Adela Pankhurst	7.30 p.m.
	London, Cosmos Club	Miss Naylor	8 p.m.
	Manchester, Dukinfield Liberal Association	Miss Mary Gawthorpe	8 p.m.
	Clifton, Hannah More Hall	Miss Annie Kenney	8 p.m.
	Wimbledon, Lecture Hall, Lingfield Road	Mrs. Bates, Miss Brackenbury, Miss Joachim. Chair: Dr. Bather	8 p.m.
	Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings	Mrs. Martel, Miss Dora Marsden	8-10
Sat. 5	Manchester, 116, Portland Street	"Votes" Corps—11 a.m., 1 p.m.	6.30 p.m.
	Kensington, High Street	Open-air Meeting	11 a.m.
	Leeds, outside Armley Gaol	Miss Adela Pankhurst	3 p.m.
	Glasgow, At Home, 141, Bath St.	Miss Conolan	3.30 p.m.
	Walsall, At Home	Miss Gladice Keevil	4.30 p.m.
	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Haymarket	Miss New	8 p.m.
Sun. 6	Bradford, Morley Street	Miss Adela Pankhurst	3 p.m.
	Wimbledon Common	Mrs. Lonsdale, and others	3 p.m.
	Bedford Park, W., St. Michael's Parish Hall	Miss Macanlay	4 p.m.
	Leadenhall Street, E.C., New Synagogue Chambers	Mrs. I. Zangwill	8 p.m.
Mon. 7	Muswell Hill, Wesleyan Literary Society	Miss G. Brackenbury	
	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Armstrong's Works, Water Street	Miss New	12.15 p.m.
	London, At Home, Queen's Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Pethick Lawrence	5-5
	Bristol, At Home, Victoria Rooms	Miss Annie Kenney	1.30 p.m.
	Bradford, Somerset Parlour	Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe	4 p.m.
	Glasgow, Drawing-room Mtg.	Miss Conolan	
	London, Warwick Road and Richmond Road	Open-air Meetings	7 p.m.
	Birmingham, Handsworth Parliament	Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Hazel	8 p.m.
	Bradford, Mechanics' Institute	Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe	8 p.m.
	Chelsea, Open-air Meeting	Miss Barry	8 p.m.
Tues. 8	Kensington, Argyll Road	Open-air Meeting	3 p.m.
	Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings, Deansgate	Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Mrs. Martel	4-6
	Kensington, Ladbroke Grove	Open-air Meeting	7 p.m.
	Birmingham, At Home, Priory Rooms	Dr. Helena Jones	7.30 p.m.
	Coventry, Debate	Miss Gladice Keevil	8 p.m.
	Huddersfield, Northumberland Street Schools	Miss Adela Pankhurst	8 p.m.
	Maldenhead, Town Hall	Miss Ogaton, Mrs. Massey, Miss E. Higgins	8 p.m.
	Barnes, At Home, Byfield Hall	Miss Brackenbury, H. Baillie-Weaver, Esq.	8-10
	Liverpool, 48, Mount Pleasant		
Wed. 9	Newcastle-on-Tyne, At Home, Crosby's Cafe	Miss New	8-10
	Birmingham, Assembly Rooms, Edgbaston	Miss Keevil, Miss L. Phillips	3.30 p.m.
	Kensington, The Mall	Open-air Meeting	7 p.m.
	Kensington, At Home	Mrs. Brownlow	
	Leeds, Arts Club	Miss Adela Pankhurst	
	Preston, Social Evening, Glover's Court	Miss Mary Gawthorpe	8 p.m.
	Edinburgh, Queen's Hall	Miss Conolan, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	
Thur. 10	Manchester, "Votes" Corps	Volunteers Wanted	1.30 a.m.
	Wood Green, Small Unity Hall	Bowes Park W.S.P.U.	2.45-4.15
	Birmingham, Miss Saxelby's Drawing-room Meeting, Hall Green	Miss Gladice Keevil	3 p.m.
	Kensington, King Street	Open-air Meeting	6.45 p.m.
	Westbourne Grove	Open-air Meeting	6.45 p.m.
	Notting Hill Gate	Open-air Meeting	7 p.m.
	Palgerton, At Home, Masonic Hall	Miss Annie Kenney	
	Glasgow, Charing Cross Hall	Miss Conolan, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	
	Manchester, Drawing-room Mtg.	Mrs. Martel	
	London, At Home, Portman Rooms, Dorset Street		8 p.m.
	Woodford, Memorial Hall	Miss Mary Neal	
	Deal, Stanhope Hall	Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Jusan Kerr	8 p.m.
	Chelsea, At Home	Committee of Chelsea W.S.P.U.	8-9.30

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

Leeds, Armley Gaol, Release of Mrs. Baines	6 a.m., Dec. 11
London, King's Cross, Welcome to Mrs. Baines	Dec. 12
London, Trafalgar Square, at 2 p.m.	Dec. 12
London, Queen's Hall	Dec. 17
Manchester, Free Trade Hall	Jan. 19 (1909)
Princes' Skating Rink	May (1909)

THE HISTORY OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

By SYLVIA PANKHURST. XXXVI.—THE DEPUTATION TO MR. ASQUITH.

Last week we saw how on May 19, 1906, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had told the deputation, representing almost all the organised bodies of women in the country, who waited upon him in the Foreign Office that because his Cabinet was divided upon this question, he could hold out no hope of anything being done for Woman Suffrage during the present Parliament. We also saw how Annie Kenney had risen up to protest, and had declared that the women were not satisfied, and that the agitation would go on.

Meanwhile, the bulk of the women's procession that had marched to the Foreign Office had retired to Cleopatra's Needle on the Embankment, and as soon as the interview with the Prime Minister was concluded, the W.S.P.U. delegates hurried down there to tell the women anxiously awaiting them all that the Prime Minister had said. The news was received with expressions of disappointment and indignation, for there were many there who knew of the forty years of patient and uncomplaining Suffrage work, and there were poor women, widows and workers in the sweated trades, who felt that because of the bitter urgency of their poverty, their needs should be attended to without delay. After a few brief words from their leaders, the women dispersed, to meet again in the afternoon, when a great demonstration was held in Trafalgar-square at three o'clock, at which over 7,000 people were present.

Afterwards, when the London Committee of the W.S.P.U. met together to discuss the result of the Woman Suffrage deputation, they came to the conclusion that as the Prime Minister had said he could not act because some members of his Cabinet were opposed to Woman Suffrage, they must bring special pressure to bear upon these hostile Ministers, the most notorious of whom was Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Strangely enough, just as they had decided upon this course of action, they were virtually advised to adopt it by no less a person than Mr. Lloyd George, at that time President of the Board of Trade. The occasion was one on which Mr. Lloyd George was addressing a meeting at Liverpool, when he was interrupted by some Suffragettes. The women were ejected, and then, in claiming the sympathy of the audience on the ground that he himself was a believer in votes for women, Mr. Lloyd George said:—

"Why do they not go for their enemies; why do they not go for their greatest enemy?"

At once there was a cry of "Asquith! Asquith!" from all parts of the hall, and as Mr. Lloyd George made no attempt to repudiate the suggestion that he had referred to Mr. Asquith, it was very generally assumed that he did really mean that Mr. Asquith was the women's greatest enemy.

On June 14, 1906, Mr. Asquith spoke at Northampton, and Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Billington, Mrs. Roe, of 45, Park-walk, and a number of Northampton women questioned him, both as to his own attitude on Woman Suffrage, and also as to what the Government as a whole would do, but although he immediately replied to several questions by men, to the women's questions he returned no answer. He waited until the women had been thrown out, and then resumed his speech, merely saying that it was difficult to enter into the minds of people, to whatever sex or party they belonged, who thought that they could serve a cause which professed to appeal to the reason of the electors of the country by disturbing public meetings.

When, at the close of his speech, questions were put to Mr. Asquith, the chairman said that, though the question put by Mrs. Pankhurst as to whether the Government was going to give mothers a voice in the making of laws in regard to the education of their children was an important one, there was no one there to answer it. Mrs. Pankhurst said: "Yes, there is; for Mr. Asquith, a member of the Government, is here. Will his Government give women the vote?" But no answer was returned to her, and she was violently ejected. After this a meeting of indignation was held outside.

These things combined to make the W.S.P.U. determined that they would secure an interview with Mr. Asquith. They therefore wrote to ask him to receive a deputation of women to lay before him their reasons for wishing to secure the Parliamentary vote.

To this letter Mr. Asquith replied that he had made it a rule not to receive any deputations except those which were connected with his office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. The W.S.P.U. then again wrote, saying that, as women were taxed and yet received no representation in return, and as all questions of taxation must concern women equally with men, they felt that this question of the Parliamentary franchise, entailing as it did the right to say how the money raised by taxation should be spent, and what the taxes should be, was very intimately connected with his office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Asquith returned no answer to this, and it was accordingly determined that a small deputation should wait upon Mr. Asquith without having previously obtained his consent. Therefore, a letter was sent to him, saying that a deputation would call at his house, 40, Cavendish-square, on the morning of Tuesday, June 19.

They rang at the bell, and asked if Mr. Asquith was at home, but though it was not yet ten o'clock they were told that he was already at the Treasury. Half of them therefore went to the Treasury to look for him, but found that he was not there, whilst the others remained at their posts. The women remained waiting for some time, making way for Mrs. Asquith to pass as she came out, but at last they learnt that Mr. Asquith had escaped through the back door in a closed motor-car.

Two days later, having written to inform Mr. Asquith that such was their intention, the representatives of the Women's Social and Political Union returned with a larger deputation of about thirty women, many of whom were women workers from the East-End. But when they arrived in Cavendish-square they were met by a strong force of police, who told them that they must turn back, and had no right to come to Cavendish-square. The women were carrying little banners; the police began to take these from them, and some of the women were struck. Then Miss Billington, who was the leader, said: "We will go forward. You shall not strike our women like that." A policeman, however, proceeded to strike her in the face with his fist, and another, coming forward, pinioned her, and she was seized by the throat and forced against the railings, so that, as was described by an onlooker, she became blue in the face. After that she struggled to free herself, and was arrested.

Immediately after Teresa Billington had been taken away by the police, Annie Kenney came up with another small body of women. She also was arrested for attempting to ring at Mr. Asquith's door. Following this, Mrs. Knight, a working woman from the East-End of London, crossed the road, and was about to step on to the pavement opposite 20, Cavendish-square, when she was rudely pushed off the pavement by the police, and when she attempted to take another step forward was also arrested. At this point, Mrs. Sparboro, an elderly lady, who by her work as a needle-woman supported her aged husband and herself, saw that the two servants and some ladies were at the window of Mr. Asquith's house, and were laughing and clapping their hands. "Oh, don't do that," said Mrs. Sparboro, raising her hand. "Oh, don't do that. This is a serious matter. That is how you sent the soldiers to Featherstone"; and she also was taken into custody.

Afterwards, at the police-court, Teresa Billington was charged with an assault upon the police, and the other women were charged with disorderly conduct. Miss Billington refused to give any evidence or call any witnesses in her defence, saying that she as a woman refused to be tried by a court composed entirely of men, administering the law which only men had been responsible in making. She was ordered to pay a fine of £10 or in default to go to prison for two months. An adjournment was asked for in the case of the other three defendants, in order that they might secure legal advice.

A question was at once asked by Mr. Keir Hardie in the House of Commons, asking that Miss Billington's sentence should be reduced, on the ground that it was excessive, even had the offence been proved, and on the following Monday Mr. Gladstone announced that the magistrate had agreed to reduce it by half, bringing it down to £5 or one month's imprisonment. Miss Billington, of course, had determined to remain in prison, but an anonymous reader of a daily newspaper paid her fine, and she was therefore released.

(To be continued.)

THE CHELMSFORD BY-ELECTION.

Unionist Mr. Pretyma
Liberal Mr. A. H. Dence

The figures at the General Election were as follows:—Major Sir F. Cairns (Ras-A-Con), 4,915; Mr. A. H. Dence (Lib.), 4,461.

Committee Rooms: Chelmsford, "Old Army Barracks," Springfield-road, Brentwood, 112, High-street.

A very active week of campaigning wound up the work of the N.W.S.P.U. in the Chelmsford by-election, the result of which will be known to our readers before this paper is published.

In spite of the scattered nature of the constituency, which extends over several hundred square miles, the electorate have been very carefully canvassed by the women. The special feature of the week was the demonstration which was held on Saturday last, when the local party, under Mrs. Drummond, joined forces with four motor-bus loads of Suffragettes coming down specially into the constituency from London.

Mrs. Drummond has had charge of the general election arrangements, and divided the constituency into two halves, the work in the northern half, with Chelmsford as its centre, being superintended by herself, and in the southern half, with Brentwood as headquarters, being superintended by Miss Higgins.

Each centre was supplied with a motor-car, and to both districts were allotted a large number of helpers, who, sallying forth each morning, and proceeding to different localities, produced a splendid impression on the district. The local papers, and in particular the "Essex Weekly News," gave good reports of the Suffragette meetings.

In Chelmsford itself, which is responsible for one-third of the electorate, many meetings were held every day, both in the dinner-hour and in the evening. Some of these were indoor meetings, but the great majority were held out in the streets, the weather proving favourable. The committee rooms themselves contained a large hall capable of accommodating several hundred people; here every afternoon a women's meeting took place, and special lantern exhibits were conducted by Miss Gye.

In the southern half of the constituency there were also several meetings every day in Brentwood, and good propaganda work was done in nearly all the small villages; in particular a large meeting was held in Laindon, two meetings in Upminster (where the women had the support of a local member, Miss Williams), in Billericay three meetings were held; others in Heron Gate, Pitsea, Vange, and many other places. In Ingatestone a very successful meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Wednesday, November 25. This was entirely organised and arranged by the Misses Rock, two local ladies, who are keen supporters of the movement. Among the meetings that have been held in Brentwood itself have been four in the Harmony Hall, two in Somerset Hall, and one in Brentwood Town Hall. Among the speakers have been Miss E. Sharp, Mrs. Mayer, Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Crocker, Miss Smith, Miss Ada Wright, Miss Maud Joachim, Miss Macaulay, Miss Ogston, Miss Ball, Miss Naylor, Mrs. Drummond, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence.

Mrs. Roberts took complete charge of the literature and the committee rooms, and has had the satisfaction of enrolling many new members at Brentwood.

Everywhere the women have been received with the utmost consideration and kindness, and the most hearty support has been given by the local people, who have come to their assistance in all kinds of ways. The shops have displayed the Union colours, and have exhibited for sale many articles in the familiar purple, white, and green. Collections have been made, and a special donation of 10s. was given on one occasion for one of the meetings in the outlying districts.

The great meeting in Brentwood on Saturday evening and the reception given to the ex-prisoners is described below. The hearty reception given to them is in no small measure to be attributed to the indignation felt at the harsh treatment which they have received from the present Government.

THE DEMONSTRATION ON SATURDAY.

A novel mode of electioneering was adopted by the W.S.P.U. on Saturday last. Five motor buses were chartered to take several parties of Suffragettes through the constituency. The first was an electric car, and started from Chelmsford carrying among its freight ten of the released prisoners in prison dress and an excellent band—that of the Mid-Essex Prize Band. The other four started at different times from Kingsway. This new method of "invading" the constituency was received with no small favour by the electors, and hearty cheers greeted the women wherever they went, the purple, white, and green lending colour and charm to the proceedings.

"General" Drummond's contingent, accompanied by the band, left Chelmsford during the morning on the electrobus, which provided a first-rate means of covering the constituency. After a most

enthusiastic send-off by the people of Chelmsford, who bought a quantity of literature and contributed generously to the collection which was taken, the party left for Ingatestone, where another demonstration took place. Next Laindon was visited, then Wickford and Billericay, at each of which a meeting was held.

In the meantime, the first three motor omnibuses engaged to take other contingents from London left Kingsway gaily decorated with such mottoes as "We oppose the Government that opposes the women" and "Keep the Liberal out," and flags in the colours of the N.W.S.P.U. A large crowd assembled to witness the start, and all through the Strand, Fleet-street, and City the women were cheered by Saturday crowds.

In Whitechapel and down Mile End-road many signs of encouragement were apparent, and it was once more evident that London, at any rate, has been won over.

The constituency—Mid-Essex—is one of scattered villages separated by miles of country lanes, and the colours of the Union with the easily deciphered mottoes formed an object lesson to the chance wayfarer not soon to be forgotten. Many of the villagers turned out to watch the novel conveyances, and at East Hornden almost every inhabitant, drivers of passing carts, and railway porters bought VOTES FOR WOMEN, while from the coach of a waiting train encouragement was waved by drivers and stokers.

At Upminster.

A painter in search of a novel subject for a picture might have found inspiration in the village scene—the friendly and interested crowd gathered round the cart in which stood a young and comely woman whose closely-fitting white cap gave her somewhat of a Quaker-like appearance, but whose coarse green dress of the second division, sprinkled with the broad arrow, told a different story. Behind was the village inn, with the picturesque old church, backed by tall trees with rooks' nests in their branches on the opposite side, with the blacksmith's forge and the local committee-room of the Conservative candidate occupying a corner where two roads met. In the stillness the clear young voice rang out: "Some people say we want to be like men. I want to tell you that we don't want to be like men at all. We want just to get the vote to help those women who are doing such low and degraded work that they have no chance of being womanly at all. That is why we are fighting so hard to-day, and English men and women always admire the fighter."

It was a scene irresistibly recalling that on Hayslope Village Green, when Dinah Morris, the "preacher-woman," held the attention of George Eliot's country folk. Then came a speech from a Liberal woman on strike. Were the Liberal men going to allow their great party to disgrace itself as it did in '67 over the working man's vote? The men of the Liberal party must see that the party was being false to its principles. . . . crowds of Liberal women were out on strike. . . . The Liberal candidate must not be allowed to get in. (A voice: "He can't!")

"Help the women to get the vote," came from another speaker, and a voice came from the audience, "And we will!" "Were our leaders sent to prison for any crime?" asked another ex-prisoner. "No, it was in order to get them out of the way!" And the crowd said, "Hear, hear."

Of course, the dogged elector was present. He didn't see why the women were "going agin the Government"—that was a bit too much for him. It would have surprised the Government to hear how the crowd took his difficulty in hand and helped the speaker's arguments! Another was anxious about the House of Lords—what would happen when the Women's Bill got there? "We don't cross bridges till we come to them," he was told, and silence ensued while he put the saying in his pipe and smoked it.

To "Any more questions, because we are going on," came the compliment: "You could answer a lot, there's no doubt."

Then, with the parting advice: "Keep out of Holloway, old girl, that's the main thing," the omnibuses went on their way through more country lanes, where the overhanging branches, unused to motor buses and Suffragettes, would have threatened Absalom's fate but for the warning, "Ware heads!"

Other Meetings.

From the roof of the omnibus, whenever houses showed by the wayside, came the shout: "Votes for women and keep the Liberal out!" Two more meetings were held, one at the diminutive Heron Gate and the other at Billericay, where the crowd that gathered round the women, who spoke from the top of the omnibus, filled the village street. It was by this time dark, and the help of the friendly driver of a dog cart in guiding the way to Brentwood was gladly accepted.

While this was going on another decorated motor bus had left Kingsway, starting at 2.30, so as to give those engaged during

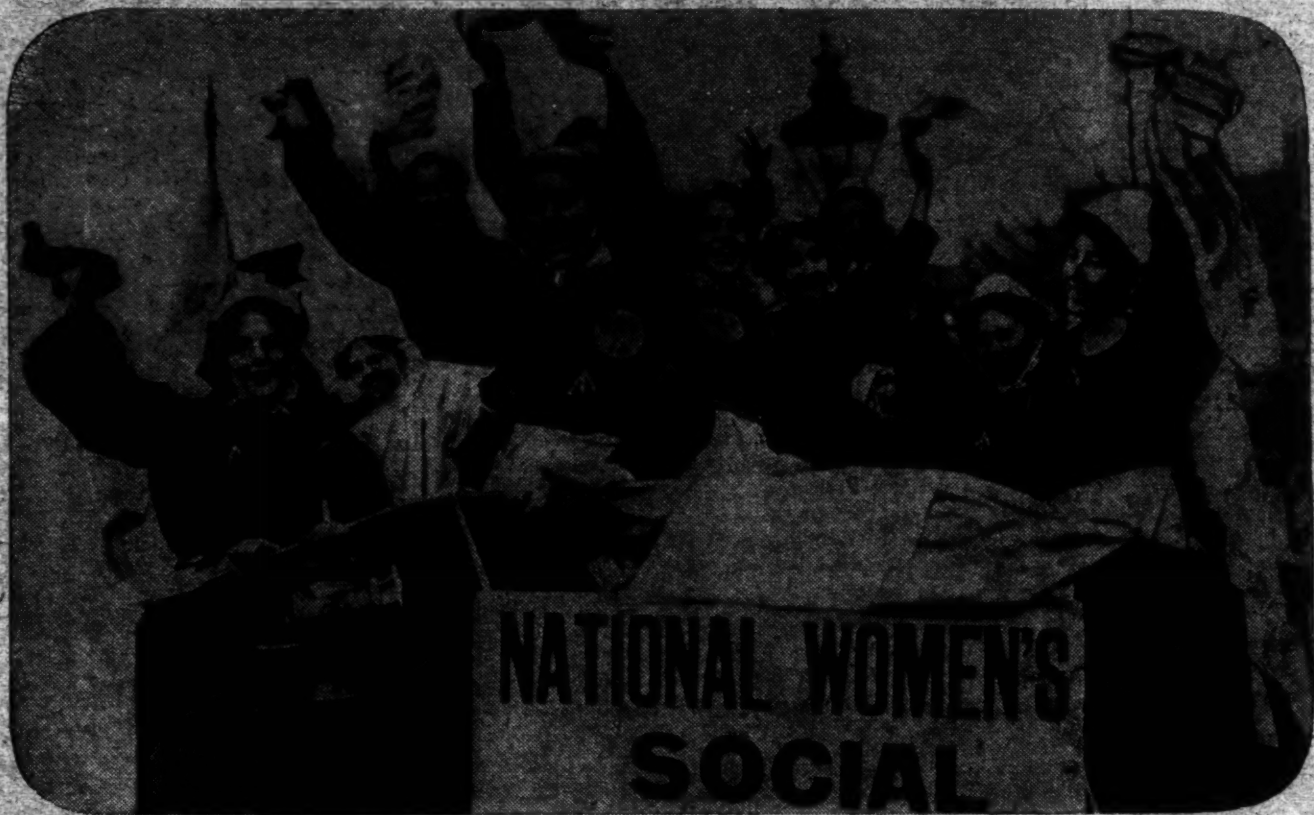
the morning an opportunity of taking part in the demonstration. The run was made direct to Brentwood, and here all the contingents met for tea in the Somerset Hall, after which they took part in a great meeting at the Monument. This was addressed by Miss Ogston, Miss Naylor, and others, when a large quantity of literature was sold and a good collection taken. At Chelmsford "General" Drummond addressed 12,000 people during the evening. Between £14 and £15 worth of literature was sold during the week.

Through Romford, Ilford, Stratford, and the City to Kingsway the women kept up almost continuous "Hurrahs!" alternated by the singing of the new Marseillaise and other popular songs, while many answering cheers came from the Saturday night shoppers and omnibuses and tram-tops, on one of which during a temporary stoppage VOTES FOR WOMEN was sold.

The Human Bus.

It is not only M.P.'s who may be described as "Weary Willies" and "Tired Tims." Motors of all kinds have their idiosyncrasies—some are "born tired," while others, like Suffragettes, are always alert and ready to put their back into it, even if "it" happens to be that which in Essex passes for a hill. Two out of the five omnibuses on Saturday were of the Willie and Tim class. They started well, but somehow both got out of heart, and one struck in a lonely road, so that Mid-Essex witnessed the strange sight of a number

women have for the first time in the history of Parliamentary electioneering in Essex entered the arena with the avowed object of fighting for their own hand. That they have more than held their own is beyond the slightest shadow of doubt. During the past week I have had the pleasure of discussing the movement with the leading Suffragettes at work in the constituency. They are the brightest, sunniest, happiest people you could possibly meet. They are not out in search of martyrs' aureoles; indeed, many of them hate the lurid light of newspaper publicity which is, however, essential if they are to win their way in the end. They are only really serious—desperately serious—upon one point, and that is "Votes for Women." When they get enfranchisement they tell me that they will be satisfied! I suppose they will all go home again and "live happily ever after"—as they say in the stories with nice endings. The rigours of Holloway Prison have no terror for these militant Suffragettes with the smiling faces. It seems odd—to say the least—while you are talking to a lady (possessing as likely as not a University degree) to hear her incidentally allude to this or that event as having happened while she was in gaol! The Suffragettes who have been in Holloway have not had things made easy for them. The system was never relaxed one jot in their favour. In some respects they had to endure petty restrictions which, it is to be presumed, were enforced specially against them with a view—a hopeless view as it has turned out—of deterring them from meddling with politics.



By the courtesy of the "Daily Mirror."

FROM THE ROOF OF THE BUS.

of women in prison dress marching through the lanes a distance of some six miles to Brentwood. It was good for Mid-Essex that it was so; for it was an additional object-lesson for the electors, who must be convinced by now that no difficulty or hindrance is too great for a Suffragette to overcome. In fairness it should be added that the bus made a good recovery during the evening.

Extracts from the Press.

"THE ESSEX WEEKLY NEWS," November 27.

The appearance of the Suffragettes in the Mid-Essex election has given to the contest a piquancy that it would not otherwise possess. Hitherto mid-Essex has known the champions of the sex only by newspaper pictures and reports. The Suffragettes have been caricatured, and sometimes ridiculed, and frequently condemned by party papers and politicians, but Essex has now had the opportunity of seeing the ladies for itself. And the ladies have won all along the line. That is the fact that has to be borne in mind. I am not speaking of success on their part in connection with the special force and influence they have strenuously tried to bring to bear against Mr. Dence, but I am alluding to the success which has attended their eloquent championship of women's rights. They have, I believe, achieved what they set out to accomplish in the Division—they have explained their position, converted their opponents, and created a public opinion in favour of "Votes for Women." That is a considerable performance. The Suffragettes have every reason to feel pleased with themselves. In this election

"THE OBSERVER," November 29.

A splash of colour has been introduced by the appearance of the Suffragettes. . . . Chelmsford has taken the Suffragettes to its heart. Expecting a shrieking sisterhood, it has been agreeably surprised to find that the women combine good looks with good strategy and enterprise with culture. . . . A motor-omnibus, which arrived from London yesterday, circumnavigated the division, filled with released prisoners in Holloway garb—green blouse and skirt, "fitting where they touch," a checked apron and a Dutch bonnet of coarse white stuff. A local prize band played the "Marseillaise," photographs were taken, and the women shook Chelmsford with their shrill cries of "Votes for Women."

"THE DAILY MAIL," November 30.

The women, many of whom were in prison dress, went through the division on a motor-omnibus. The Mid-Essex Band accompanied them. They had an enthusiastic reception in Brentwood, which was during the afternoon a centre of political excitement.

"THE STANDARD," November 30.

The Suffragists had a busy day on Saturday. Early in the morning a party of them, accompanied by the town band, set off in a motor omnibus for a tour of the constituency. A number were in the now familiar prison dress, and at Upminster they were joined by several who had just been released from Holloway. They then went on to Brentwood, returning to Chelmsford in the evening, where Mrs. Drummond addressed vast crowds. They undoubtedly share the popularity of the town with the Tariff Reform speakers.

HECKLING CABINET MINISTERS.

The reticence of Cabinet Ministers, upon which we commented in last week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, has been more marked than ever during the past week. They do not come out into the open if they can help it. And when they do they are well guarded by police, or, as in the case of Mr. Haldane at Cambridge on Saturday, by both police and military. The occasion was a meeting for men only, and the comic aspect of the case is still further intensified by the fact that it was the Minister for War on whose behalf all these precautions were considered necessary. The Cabinet has come to a pretty pass indeed when the head of its fighting department is afraid to meet the women of the country alone and unprotected!

It was some time before Mr. Haldane ventured to leave the place of meeting, and when he did appear he was rushed into his motor-car by quite an imposing force of police and military. In spite, however, of the precautions taken to give his conscience a rest, he had to listen to the shouts of "Votes for Women" from one side of his motor and to see the colours waving on the other before he could make his escape.

A large number of police and detectives were on duty when Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Buxton opened a bazaar at Cubitt Town on Thursday. In spite, however, of all precautions, a number of women waylaid and put questions to the Postmaster-General in a passage leading to the hall in which the bazaar was held. "Why do you imprison our women?" he was asked. Mr. Buxton did not answer, but left it to his wife to implore the stewards to keep the women out of the bazaar.

In view of these "beautifully rare" appearances of Cabinet Ministers, it is amusing to read in an account of Mr. Runciman in the *Daily Chronicle* that in one of his conflicts with Mr. Winston Churchill ten years ago, the latter said: "Whatever happens, you will hear of us both again!"

Women all over the country are waiting to hear of them both—and their colleagues in the Cabinet.

Mr. Birrell at Warrington.

A very effective protest was made by the Manchester members in Warrington on Saturday last, where Mr. Birrell addressed a meeting. Although no women were able to get inside the hall, owing to the extreme precautions taken by the Liberals to keep out Suffragettes, they made their presence widely known throughout the town, holding two meetings within hearing of the hall where Mr. Birrell was speaking. Two members of the men's league were refused admission because they were strangers, and all strangers were under suspicion.

Two women walking along the road, looking for a certain street, were greeted by some children, who called out, "Suffragettes looking for the way." It was a good sign. They knew quite well that if the children in the street were aware of their presence their advance agents had done their work well. There was not a street in Warrington without a chalked notice of the protest meetings, and there were large audiences, notwithstanding the rain which fell heavily for three solid hours.

The women pointed out to the audiences that although they were kept out of the meeting, they still had the best of the bargain, for in taking such extreme measures to keep their meetings free from interruptions, the Liberals were only admitting their own select few, and not only were they doing no propaganda work, but they were leaving the greater number of the electorate of Warrington to be won over to the cause of "Votes for Women."

The following resolution was carried: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to transfer the women now in prison to the political offenders' division, and to render further imprisonment unnecessary by granting the immediate enfranchisement of women."

A number of papers and button badges were sold.

OUR POST BOX.

DO MILITANT TACTICS PAY?

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I have followed with the deepest interest the course of recent events in connection with the Women's Suffrage movement, and I own frankly to a feeling of regret that Mr. Zangwill should have indited the letter which appeared in your issue of November 26. He has done it, of course, in anxious goodwill for the cause; yet, except for having thus called forth your excellent leading article, it is questionable whether the latter portion of his letter might not better have been left unpenned.

I would take serious exception to the natural inferences that follow from his injudicious statement that "obviously no Minister can over-

ride the will of the Premier." This is rank fatalism, and not in accordance with the constitutional position of the Cabinet standing together as a whole. If, within the Cabinet, the "professed" supporters of Women's Suffrage were really in earnest on the question, they would force the hand of Mr. Asquith either from the inside or by the pressure of resignation. The reference to the impossibility of over-riding the will of the Premier reads curiously, too, when one turns to another page of the same issue, whereon is recounted the bootless interview with the preceding Premier, who continually professed to support Women's Suffrage and yet could only counsel patience.

Those who advocate political changes must, if they are sincere, advocate them in the concrete, not in the abstract. Genuine advocacy implies a *bond fide* attempt to turn a previous abstraction into a tangible reality. If Mr. Lloyd George cannot promise absolutely that the Government will give facilities for the Women's Suffrage Bill to pass its several stages, then all the speeches he may make on the abstract question will be so much idle wind.

Yours, &c.,

50, St. George's-road, Glasgow.

CHARLES B. MABON.

R. G. KNOWLES WISHES SUCCESS.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence has received the following letter from Mr. R. G. Knowles, the well-known comedian, enclosing a special subscription to the funds of the National Women's Social and Political Union:—

DEAR MADAM,—The Inland Revenue Department of Great Britain claim to have a claim against me for income-tax. I repudiate their claim, and as they have not been noticeably clever in the handling of their case, I am sending with this a donation to the Women's Social and Political Union, instead of remitting to them the amount claimed.

I admire your methods, system, and organisation, as much as I pity the sometimes contemptible conduct of your opponents. That brilliantly clever young woman, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, should have a place in the Cabinet, instead of the two old ladies who cut such a sorry figure under her cross-examination.

I feel in pursuing this course, not only am I helping a good cause, but I am also doing a real service to your country.

Wishing you every success,

Yours, &c.,

R. G. KNOWLES.

Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, W.C.,

November 29, 1908.

A SEPTUAGENARIAN SUPPORTER.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has received the following letter, enclosing £5, "to be put to whatever use would best please Mrs. Pankhurst":

DEAR YOUNG LADIES,—Language fails when I try to put into words my sympathy with you, and my admiration for your heroic mother and sister. Truly, they are Christlike in spirit, and belong to "the noble army of martyrs." In connection with what they have to endure, one thinks of the lines:

Right forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne.

On reading the speeches at the trial (so-called) I was reminded of those other lines:

Where'er a noble deed is wrought,
Where'er is spoke a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise.

Their self-sacrifice will not be in vain. That the gifted and dauntless leaders of this movement be supported and guided to discourage whatever tends rather to retard than to promote it is the fervent desire of

Yours faithfully,

DEBORAH WEBB

(A Septuagenarian Irish Nationalist).

Stapleford W.S.P.U.—A largely attended At Home was held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday (November 24). Miss Lilley presided, and Miss Dalley also addressed the meeting. Many questions were answered, and a good collection taken.

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MESSAGES FROM WOMEN IN OTHER LANDS.

Many letters of sympathy and goodwill have recently been received by the N.W.S.P.U. from women in other lands. We select the following:—

From Italy.

From the Association of the "Fede Nuova" comes a greeting through Signora Adele Albani Tondi:—

"Beloved sisters, the battle which you are forced to sustain against the powers which seek with all the ancient, moral, and material forces at their disposal to stifle your voice, which is asking for the right to vote, and is demanding in the name of human equality parity of civil and political treatment for men and women citizens of the State, does not leave your Italian sisters indifferent to the brutal violence and the persecution of which you are made the mark. They respond with a vote of grave censure on your outrageous persecutors, and with the warm salutation to you of admiration and affection, and of solidarity in our common aims. The resolution to this effect, already sent to our sisters in Italy, in order that they may affix their signatures to it, will shortly be forwarded to you on behalf of the Society of the 'Fede Nuova.' In the meantime we beg you to accept this announcement, together with our affectionate wishes."

Another message comes from the women of Milan:—

"To the Suffragists of England:—

"For several days past the Italian newspapers bear the echo of a glorious cry of victory, which little by little entering everywhere, passing into all mouths, has made itself the most vivid and most interesting topic among cultured Italians. And this cry of victory comes to us from that northern island, home of a strong, intelligent, and profound race. It is the cry of a victory, which, though certainly not complete, is nevertheless the potent prophecy of a dawn which is breaking, the dawn of a truly modern era, in which intellectual woman succeeds in conquering the despotism of man, and in obtaining possession of the powers which hitherto the members of the so-called strong sex have wished to possess alone."

Yes, oh brave English women, amid the acclamation of the world you will reach the end towards which you have long striven, and will win the cause for which Miss Pankhurst is condemned to-day. And your exploits make us stand amazed, and make us ask what blood flows in your veins, and leave us doubtful, asking ourselves whether we also should be capable of such daring, which many call excessive; but no means can be excessive when the end is so noble. I think that those few who up to now have felt themselves drawn to you in thought will begin to transmit to others their eager enthusiasm, and over here, also, the campaign of the Italian Suffragists is being initiated."

"And to you, brave and elect daughters of strong England, comes this greeting from a town which has already given a welcome to representatives of your Union. We send heartiest congratulations on your success, and the wish for complete victory in the near future.—(Signed) ADELA CAGNIS." (Milan.)

From France.

From a little schoolhouse on a mountain side in the French province of Seine et Loire a school teacher acts as secretary of one of the finest groups of Suffragists in her country. Maria Guillot has not only organised 100 women of the neighbouring towns, but is quite evidently their inspiration. She is indefatigable in propaganda, her group has published several pamphlets, and posted notices on the walls at election times setting forth women's claim to vote. In a letter to an English Suffragette (Mrs. Rigby, of Preston), Mdlle. Guillot says the efforts to spread all over the provinces are being multiplied; very many schoolmistresses have become interested, and are applying to her for information, or striking out for themselves, and a lending library has been inaugurated for the use of members.

"It is hard work," she writes, "but we shall arrive—less quickly than will you, without doubt, for the movement is better led in England, and we admire your valiant Suffragettes, so devoted in their work. Without any doubt they will speedily reach the goal at which they aim. Let me know the first positive results you obtain. I shall be only too glad of them not only for you English-women, but for us, and for all women everywhere. Your victory will be the dawn of our victory. It will be the whip which will quicken up public opinion for us."

"Higher education, in opening to women other horizons than those of the household and children, has taught them to measure their own capacities. Now woman learns daily by comparison that she is well equal to man, and that is the reason she claims her place, her right to work, and to happiness, and to the independence which has too long been forbidden her. We desire to continue, and if possible to develop our propaganda, but we are far

from obtaining what you now have. We count more than all on the pride and strong independence of the young to secure women's freedom."

From New Zealand.

From Mrs. W. D. Lysuar, the Mayoress of Gisborne, has come the following letter:—

"On behalf of a meeting of Gisborne (New Zealand) women, held here on the 19th inst. (the anniversary of the grant of the women's franchise in New Zealand), we have the pleasure of sending you the enclosed copy of the resolution, passed by the meeting, and also a P.O. for £5 15s., a contribution to your propaganda funds. It was thought that the occasion was one on which the efforts of our sisters in the United Kingdom should be recognised and sympathised with."

"With all good-wishes for your success, and in the rather confident hope that the Parliamentary franchise for women is now practically safe,—We remain, yours sincerely (Signed) IDA E. LYSUAR (Mayoress), ELIZABETH TOWNSLEY."

The resolution runs:—

"That this meeting of Gisborne women, on the anniversary day of granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women of New Zealand, desires with one accord to express sympathy with the Women's Parliamentary Franchise movement in the United Kingdom, and warmest wishes for success, and directs that a copy of this resolution, with a contribution to the propaganda funds, be sent to Mrs. F. Pethick Lawrence, the honorary treasurer of the Women's Social and Political Union, 4, Clements Inn, London."

From America and Canada.

Some of the women members of the deputation of teachers now visiting this country from America and Canada were present at the N.W.S.P.U. At Home at Queen's Hall on Monday. They have sent from the teachers and from other women in America to the members of the N.W.S.P.U. a message of sympathy with the women now in prison, and their best wishes for the success of the cause, together with the expression of their belief that the efforts of the women of England will make it easier for those in America to win the vote. Some of the deputation visited Chelmsford after the At Home.

From Massachusetts.

From the Woman Suffrage Association in Massachusetts comes the following warm greeting and message of enthusiastic sympathy:—

"Our Massachusetts Suffrage Association has just had its Convention, and over and over again the English Suffragettes were commended, and a new enthusiasm was infused into our workers by knowing about the deeds of the English women. We also, fired by their example, are to adopt more aggressive measures."

"I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of the courage and the intellectual grasp of your English women. You are fighting the battle for all of us, and you at the danger post—the place where the humiliations offered to our sex are no longer covered by chivalry, or any resemblance of respect—you have torn away all shams and hypocrisies."

"Yours, with best wishes and deep gratitude,

"(Mrs. MARY HUTCHESON PAGE,

Acting Chairman of the Standing Organisation Committee, Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association."

Canonisation of "The Maid."

After nearly 500 years the claims of Joan of Arc to canonisation are to receive authoritative recognition. A week ago the Pope presided at a meeting of the Cardinals to discuss the question; and next Sunday His Holiness will publish his recognition of her miracles and his authority for her beatification. The canonisation will be celebrated about Easter, 1909, with simultaneous festivities on an extensive scale in France and Rome.

Sixteen Miles a Day.

Mrs. Emma Stevenson, of Wrecclesham, Surrey, who has acted as a letter-carrier for 27 years, has just retired, and has been granted a gratuity of £10 by the Postmaster-General. Mrs. Stevenson, who is 59 years of age, has regularly walked her daily round of some 16 miles, with alternate Sundays off duty. Her pay has been 13s. 3d. one week and 15s. 2d. the next, with 7s. 6d. every six months for "boot money," and a fortnight's holiday in the year. Her reason for resigning her post was the decision of the postmaster to have an extra evening delivery. Mrs. Stevenson kept her crippled husband on her earnings, and is now in poverty.

The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

Telegraph Address—"WOSPOLU, LONDON."

Tele. 2721 (two lines) Holborn

Mrs. PANKHURST,
Founder and Hon. Sec.Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE,
Hon. Treasurer.Mrs. TUKE,
Joint Hon. Sec.Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,
Organising Sec.

The Women's Social and Political Union are asking for votes for women on the same terms as they are possessed by men.

They are not asking for the vote for every woman, but that a woman shall not be refused a vote simply because she is a woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed this Session.

IS IT PEACE?

The Cabinet is a unit—a unit as regards the sovereign, and a unit as regards the legislature. Its views are laid before the sovereign and before Parliament as if they were the views of one man. . . . The first mark of the Cabinet, as that institution is now understood, is united and indivisible responsibility.

LORD MORLEY ("Life of Walpole").

It would not now be disputed that a Minister must either be prepared to support a policy which his colleagues endorse, or that he must resign his office. . . . This doctrine of joint Ministerial responsibility is the most characteristic of all our constitutional understandings.

SIDNEY LOW ("Governance of England").

Mr. Lloyd George proposes to speak at the Albert Hall in favour of Woman Suffrage. Does he not realise then that, as a member of the present Cabinet, he is responsible for the refusal to give facilities to the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill now before Parliament? Does he not realise that as a member of a Cabinet which is hostile to woman's enfranchisement, he is answerable for the imprisonment as common criminals of over three hundred women who, voteless and politically handicapped, are determined by the only means open to them to enforce their claim upon the Government?

If he does not realise this very simple and obvious fact, he shows himself ignorant of one of the political axioms of the British Constitution, which is that "the Cabinet is a unit," and that "the first mark of the Cabinet is united and indivisible responsibility."

If he does realise it he must know that he is placing himself in a position which, from a Constitutional point of view, is wholly illogical and absurd.

Imagine the matter at issue to be one of the other political questions of the day. Is it possible to conceive of Mr. Lloyd George, or any other member of the Government, proposing to speak (let us say) on a Tariff Reform platform in order to express his sympathy with those manufacturers who find that the home market is overstocked with foreign goods? Even if we can imagine the possibility of such a thing, would Tariff Reformers feel pleased and flattered at the condescension of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in coming to give them his sympathy? No! They would resent it as an insult to their political intelligence. They would say: "If you are an honest man, have the courage of your convictions, and act upon them. Choose one side or the other. You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds."

Is there any reason why women should be more complacent? Is not our question much more vital to the welfare of the country; of much deeper fundamental importance than any question affecting the fiscal system can be? Have we not given more, sacrificed more—ininitely more than men have done for any one of the political questions of the present day?

Does Mr. Lloyd George expect to get the gratitude and appreciation of women when he knows that by similar treatment he would only get opposition and ridicule from men? Is he still trusting, as politicians have done for so many years, to woman's political blindness and gullibility? Does he think that the women of to-day can be put off with sympathy and specious words instead of with honest and fair dealing? If so, he is mistaken. It is true that politicians satisfied women in

the past in this way, but the time for that has gone by. To-day women demand action. To-day women are not to be contented with words.

If the Government of which he is a part is determined to go on with its resistance to our just and reasonable demand that facilities shall be given to our Bill before the end of this session, then we shall go on with our warfare against the Government and against every member of the Government. But if the Government is prepared to withdraw its opposition and give facilities to the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill, and if Mr. Lloyd George comes on their behalf to tell us so, then we are ready to withdraw our opposition also, and to observe all the conditions of peace.

There can be no truce until there is peace. This Union has declared again and again the only terms of peace that it is prepared to accept, and those terms are nothing more nor less than the immediate enfranchisement of women.

The leaders of this Union have been asked to use their influence to restrain women from heckling Mr. Lloyd George at the Albert Hall next Saturday. We answer that we cannot do that unless Mr. Lloyd George comes with a promise from the Government to deal with this question immediately.

If we were men, Mr. Lloyd George would recognise quite clearly that he would have to accept the consequences of his failure to bring this promise. Women will not storm his platform and send him flying as men would do if placed in a like position, as men did again and again when they were fighting for the extension of the franchise; they will take gentler, but perhaps not less effective, means of expressing their disapproval of the attitude of the Government.

There are, of course, a great number of people who do not approve of the militant methods of this Union, and others who are always wondering whether they are right or whether they are wrong, and we are met, as usual, with advice from well-disposed critics and professing friends who are urging compromise and concession "this once." Many of them acknowledge quite frankly that, logically, we are right to pursue our policy of heckling every member of the Government, without exception, so long as the vote is withheld from women. "But what will people say?" they urge. "No one will understand your action; it will be misrepresented on all sides." "Everybody will say that women are fighting each other." "Many who have been veering to our side will now be alienated."

What will people say? When did this Union ever stay to answer such a question? Have we not been told from the outset that we were wrong? That we were alienating everybody? That we were doing harm to our cause? That we were putting back the hands of the clock?

Two women against the whole world—that was the beginning of this movement. When Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney took that action which they knew to be politically sound, they were quite regardless of the storm of misrepresentation and abuse which they knew would fall upon them. They alienated everybody—at the time. The political wisdom of their action has been justified by almost miraculous success.

So long as this movement keeps true to the spirit which inspired those two women to whose militant action it owes its existence, so long will it be strong and truly successful; but the moment we begin to care what people think or what people say, the moment we are influenced by fear or by favour, in that moment we shall lose everything. The only question for the members of this Union is: "Is the action which we take politically right and politically justifiable?"

If people choose to say that we are fighting women, they must say so. We know that it is absolutely untrue. The Liberal women are non-belligerents. We have no quarrel with them; our quarrel is with the Government. But if non-belligerents give cover to our political enemy, they cannot complain if their ground becomes the field of combat. We shall not fight them, but we shall find and fight the foe to whom they have offered a hiding-place.

And to our timid critics and to our professing friends we say: As for the Women's Social and Political Union, we shall go forward, a Gideon's army. We shall continue our warfare without truce or compromise. We shall neither fail nor falter until we have broken the yoke that has been laid upon the neck of the womanhood of our people.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

WHY WOMEN DISTRUST THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

The foundation of the policy of the National Women's Social and Political Union is opposition to any Government which refuses to give votes to women. On this policy rest the three recognised militant methods of the Union; for this reason the women work at the by-elections in opposition to the Liberal nominee; for this reason they deliberately heckle Cabinet Ministers at their meetings; for this reason they attempt to avail themselves of their constitutional right to enter the House of Commons and to demand from the Prime Minister an alteration of his policy.

From its inception this tenet of the Women's Social and Political Union has been vigorously attacked, and politicians and the Press have urged that a different attitude should be adopted; that in place of opposition, trust and confidence should be reposed in the Liberal party, and that every effort should be made by peaceful means to induce the Government to consider favourably the question of Woman Suffrage. A large part of the Liberal party, it is said, are declared supporters of Woman Suffrage, and even in the Cabinet itself Mr. Asquith has stated that a two-thirds majority are in favour of granting this reform. Those who make this appeal to the women do not realise that the essence of political progress lies in deeds and not in words. If they will cast their minds back to the commencement of the present Liberal régime, they must recognise that there never was the slightest intention on the part of the members of the Liberal Government to carry votes for women during their tenure of office. It is true that the Liberal Ministers did not specifically state that they refused to tackle this reform, but that is never the way of Ministers; they took refuge, as is usual, in silence, and it was for refusing to accept silence as an answer that Christabel Pankhurst was flung out of Sir Edward Grey's meeting in the Free Trade Hall at the end of 1905. Since the Government came into power Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman gave it to be understood that there was no intention on the part of his Cabinet to carry a Votes for Women Bill during the present Parliament, and since that time there has been only one pronouncement of importance bearing upon the question. In May of the current year Mr. Asquith, in answering the Liberal deputation which waited upon him, made his famous statement relating to the introduction of the proposed Reform Bill, which has been called by Liberals his "offer" to woman suffragists. It is this "offer" which they seized upon as a reason for exhorting women to withhold their opposition, and instead, to place confidence and trust in the intentions of the Government.

Mr. Asquith's Offer.

In this paper this so-called offer has been frequently discussed. Briefly, Mr. Asquith stated that the Government did not intend to introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill, nor to give facilities for a Private Member's Bill to be carried into law. It was the intention, however, of the Government to introduce a measure for widening the franchise at present possessed by men; and this in spite of the fact that there has not been, and is not, any agitation for this extension at all commensurable with the agitation for giving the vote to women. Further, Mr. Asquith stated that any amendment to that Bill proposed by a private member with the intention of extending the vote to women would be liable to be opposed by the Liberal Government, acting as a Government, unless two conditions were fulfilled. These two conditions were (a) that the amendment should be on democratic lines, and (b) that the Government should be convinced that a majority both of women and

men throughout the country were demanding this extension. The wiliness of these conditions was proved by the fact that when subsequently interrogated, Mr. Asquith refused to say what evidence he would require to satisfy him that these conditions were fulfilled, so that it would always be open to him to declare himself still unsatisfied.

The slightness of this "offer" has accordingly been patent from the first, but the events of the last few days, and in particular the leading articles in many of the Liberal papers, have brought home to women a fact which was not so clearly understood except by the leaders of the National Women's Social and Political Union, at the outset. This New Reform Bill, so glibly put forward as part of the intentions of the Government; what chance has it of ever really being introduced, or if introduced, of being actually carried into law during the present Parliament? The intentions of the Government are subject, from time to time, to alteration; the action of the House of Lords may at any moment determine the Government to take their courage in both hands and make an appeal to the people by dissolving Parliament. If this course, which is being urged at the present time upon them by many of the Liberal newspapers, be actually adopted either now or before the introduction of the promised Reform Bill, what will happen to this proposal of electoral reform and to the hypothetical Woman Suffrage amendment for which women are asked to wait? It will never see the light in any shape or form.

To be Rejected by the House of Lords.

But a still greater danger lies behind. Even supposing all the necessary obstacles overcome; supposing that is to say the Bill actually introduced, supposing a woman suffrage amendment carried, and supposing the Reform Bill, loaded with all kinds of proposals of various descriptions, piloted safely through the House of Commons—what will then be its chance of passing through the House of Lords and of becoming law during the current Parliament? To put the matter in a more immediate form—and this is the crux of the position—do the Liberal Party themselves expect that this Bill is going to be carried through the House of Lords? Christabel Pankhurst recently expressed her opinion that they do not, and during the last week a remarkable confirmation of her view is to be found in the columns of the "Daily News." On Thursday, November 26, the leader writer of that paper, in the course of an article dealing with the issue between the Commons and the Lords, says:—"No one, we imagine, is so simple as to suppose that the Lords will eventually allow us to improve our chance by accepting a democratic reform of the franchise"; in other words, the fate of the New Reform Bill, assuming it ever is carried through the Commons, is sealed from the outset. There is no expectation even in the Liberal ranks of its ever passing into law. It is simply to be introduced with a view to providing a weapon with which to fight the House of Lords at the next General Election.

Now women who mean to secure their vote before the next appeal to the country is made have no intention of being a party to this campaign; between the House of Commons and the House of Lords they have nothing to choose, both are equally unrepresentative of their views, both are to them equally autocratic and irresponsible; nor have they any intention of being used as a mere counter in the party game. They see in this device a base trick. It has been the practice among the lowest class of shipowners to send to sea in an untrustworthy ship a quantity of cargo, over-valued for the purpose of insurance, in the hope that it will be lost in the depths of the ocean, and that a greater sum will be obtained from the insurance company than ever the cargo was worth. Women recognise in this proposal of the Government a similar base motive. The cargo which they have to send to sea they have no intention of entrusting to a rotten barque; it has cost them much sacrifice; it has been the product of much labour; it has been purchased with their heart's blood; they will entrust it to none other than a sound ship that will cross the ocean and bring it safe to shore.

F. W. Pethick Lawrence.

GREAT PROTEST MEETINGS.

Manchester.

The great protest meeting in the Free Trade Hall, on Wednesday evening, was a tremendous success. The audience, a large and enthusiastic one, was marshalled by a bevy of nearly a hundred stewards, wearing white dresses and the colours of the N.W.S.P.U., and a novel feature was a Christmas Present Stall in the vestibule, where the Suffragette wares—scarves, brooches, &c., &c.—were on sale. Previous to the hour for beginning the meeting an organ recital was splendidly rendered by Miss Lily Muzzell, ending with the "Marseillaise."

Miss Mary Gawthorpe, who was in the chair, read a letter from Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, which ran:—

"We must not wait for the full enfranchisement of every man in the community, but demand now our immediate enfranchisement on the same terms as men."

Miss Gawthorpe moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of Manchester men and women calls upon the Government to transfer Mrs. Pankhurst and other Suffragist prisoners to the first division as political offenders; and, moreover, demands that the Government shall render further imprisonment unnecessary by securing the passage of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill into law this session."

The Suffragists, Miss Gawthorpe said, were prisoners of war, and should have the same consideration as was given to men prisoners of war. Women were only asking the Government to give them the chance to help it, so that women could give their opinions on bills—such as the Licensing Bill—which affect women's interests as much as men's.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, in seconding the resolution, argued the question of Women's Suffrage on general grounds, and spoke of the value of the vote in the hands of women as an instrument for securing better conditions for women workers and for married women. Though she was never tired of emphasising the fact that the majority of men were better than the law insisted on their being, it must not be forgotten how many women suffered under unjust marriage laws, which were a disgrace to the country.

Speaking on the question, Should women sit on juries? Mrs. Pethick Lawrence cited the case of a servant girl condemned to long imprisonment for the putting to death of her illegitimate child in a fit of frenzy, while her master, who had wrought her downfall, went free; and that of a rich man who for an offence on little girls, which, from a woman's point of view, was worse than murder, received only a sentence of a short imprisonment in the second division. Such disproportionate punishments made her disposed to urge that women should not only sit on juries with men, but also sit on the Bench with them.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence roused much enthusiasm by a spirited answer to the plea that women were unable to fight, and, therefore, not entitled to vote.

Dealing with the policy of heckling Cabinet Ministers, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence referred to the violence of men's agitation for political freedom. "You mobbed archbishops," she said; "what would you say if we mobbed even a curate?" There was much laughter at this.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who had an enthusiastic reception from her fellow townspeople, told, amid cries of "Shame," the story of the harsh treatment suffered in Holloway by her mother and sister. The Liberal Government, she said, would go down to posterity as the Government that persecuted women who demanded political freedom.

The resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

An appeal for promises of subscriptions met with an enthusiastic response, money, cheques, and promises realising £30. The cheques included £7 7s. per Mrs. Ratcliff, £1 1s. from Mrs. Jackson, and £1 from Mrs. Humphrey. All present paid for their seats. The collection realised £15.

Plymouth.

A meeting organised by the National Women's Social and Political Union was held in the Guildhall, Plymouth, on Friday. A charge was made for every part of the hall; even for standing room in the arcades 3d. was charged. In spite of this the hall was well filled, and the audience was very sympathetic.

Miss Mordan, of London, who presided, said she had carried the flag of "Votes for Women" for a longer time than anyone else present. (Applause.) She had always been saying that the woman who paid taxes as a man did should vote for a member of Parliament as a man did. For years they had conducted this movement with the utmost decorum. For 40 years they had tried to promote their cause by being demurely, blushing, retiringly feminine, and the only notice the public seemed to take of them was to give them the most singularly inappropriate nickname ever devised. They called them "The Shrieking Sisterhood." (Loud laughter.)

"Why," exclaimed Miss Mordan, "we would have shrunk into the ground rather than shriek. We were far too well behaved. We were the pink of propriety. (Laughter.) We never looked at a policeman—(loud laughter)—except to do what he told us. We never said 'Bo!' to the goose." (Laughter.) But some young Suffragists said: "How long is this to go on?" And when they made a street riot the public called them "Suffragettes," a much prettier name. (Laughter and applause.) She introduced Miss Annie Kenney as one of the first of the young Suffragists who complained of the elder leaders of the movement being humdrum. (Laughter.)

Miss Annie Kenney said she had only been working in this movement three years, and she did not intend to work three years longer, "because," she said, "we are going to win this cause before very long." Two questions had been asked her in Plymouth. The first was: "On what terms do we women ask for the vote?" The society she represented were asking for the vote on exactly the same terms as men, whatever those terms might be. (Applause.) Then they were asked what they had done. Some people thought all they had done was to raid the House of Commons and go to prison. (Laughter.) But they had done much to try to prove their earnestness and devotion to this great cause. (Applause.) Why were they so anxious to get votes for women? Men who valued their political liberty did not need to be told why women wanted the vote. They knew women wanted the vote as a medium of expression and a basis for their liberties. She was convinced that they were going to win the vote out of the present Government. (Applause.) "If we don't get the vote," Miss Kenney added, "we shall be more militant than ever before. We younger women are not going to grow grey in asking for the vote; we are going to grow grey in working for constructive reform as voters. We are going to grow grey alongside the young men of this country, doing everything to build up a better, happier, and purer country than we are living in at the present time."

A Shop in Plymouth.

Miss Mordan, in asking for the collection to be taken, said that they must have money to organise, and among other things they wanted to set up a shop in Plymouth from which to spread the light.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence began her address by saying: "It is all very well that women who pay rates and taxes should have the vote; we believe in that, of course every logical man would, but what we don't like is the methods of these women." That was what people were saying, and she was going to talk about the methods of the militant movement. In that way a great deal had been gained during the last three years. Three years ago, if people discussed votes for women at all, they discussed whether women ought to have a vote or not. Now the point of attack was changed. They confined their objections to the methods; but men ought to be sorry they had made these methods necessary for women; that they had driven women to forego their most natural instincts, set aside the traditions and conventions in which they had been brought up, and expose themselves to abuse, and violence, and suffering, which they had been obliged to do. (Applause.) They had tried constitutional means for 40 years, and they had finished up with the greatest public meeting ever held in London, and now they saw these things were of no avail, and they must take other means to bring pressure to bear upon the Government. They looked back into history, and they found what clear and logical men did when they wanted to get votes. They did not go so far as the men, because men used physical force and weapons. But they found that the first thing men did was to go to political meetings and heckle the speakers—(hear, hear)—and if the speaker was opposed to the granting of the franchise they did not give him a hearing. But men went further than they did: men stormed platforms, and sent the speaker flying for fear of his life. (Laughter.) One little stone thrown at a window was all the destruction that had been done during their great movement. They could only get at Ministers at public meetings, and there they had a right to heckle them. Mrs. Lawrence proceeded to justify the other militant tactics of the Union, pointing out that the women had no quarrel with the police, who only did their duty in obeying the instructions given to them. They were going forward with their policy till victory was attained.

Outside the hall a large crowd had gathered, which gave the speakers a hearty cheer as they left the building.

Ipswich.

Miss Joachim presided over a meeting in the Ipswich Public Hall on Tuesday, November 24, at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was the principal speaker. The meeting was convened by the Ipswich and County Women's Suffrage Society. In spite of the rowdiness of a band of paid hooligans Miss Pankhurst spoke for about an hour and a half, and won the cheers of the respectable portion of the audience for her clever exposition of the methods and aims of the N.W.S.P.U.

THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

WEST OF ENGLAND.

Shop and Committee Rooms: 33, Queen's-road (opposite Art Gallery), Clifton.
Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Homes.

Mondays, 5.30 to 5.—Victoria Assembly Rooms, Clifton.
Fridays, 8 p.m.—Hannah More Hall, Clifton.
Fridays, 4-6 p.m.—Royal Hotel, Plymouth.

After my week's work in Plymouth I go back to Bristol feeling very content, especially with the result of our Guildhall meeting, an account of which appears on p. 170. It gives Miss Howey and myself great pleasure to be able to send to the treasurer such a satisfactory sum from Plymouth and Torquay. Altogether I have sent:—Per Elsie Howey: Mrs. Stevens, Torquay, £5; Miss Hughes, Paignton, £5; Mrs. Entwistle, 5s. From Plymouth: Ticket money, £30 13s. 6d.; collection, £5 14s. 2d. Bristol: Weekly collection, £1 17s. 6d.; Miss Dorothy Pethick, £5. Total for the week, £53 10s. 2d. During my absence the flag has been kept flying by Miss Clara Codd, a report from whom follows.

Annie Kenney.

Bristol.—Last Monday we had a crowded attendance in the Victoria Rooms at the regular At Home. Mrs. Falk was in the chair, and I addressed the audience. In opening the meeting, Mrs. Falk gave us a very amusing and interesting account of the manners and behaviour expected of women in the early Victorian era, as set forth in the contemporary books of instruction for young ladies at that time.

On Friday night Miss Florence Haig gave an interested audience in the Hamilton's Rooms an account of the workings of the N.W.S.P.U. in London, and also of Mrs. Pankhurst's recent historic trial.

Clara M. Codd.

Plymouth and Torquay.—Our big Guildhall meeting on the 27th was a great success. Particulars will be found on p. 170. For three days we had driven round the town in a decorated wagonette to advertise this meeting, and thereby caused great interest among the inhabitants of the five towns. Three outdoor meetings were held during the week, one at each of the dock gates and one in the Market-square. The audiences were interested and attentive. Mrs. Richardson kindly gave us a Drawing-room meeting at her house on the 24th, and Mrs. Milward has promised one on December 3. The weekly At Home was held on Saturday in the Corn Exchange, and was well attended. Miss Mordan took the chair, and Miss Phillips and Miss Kenney gave us very interesting addresses. The selling of VOTES FOR WOMEN in the streets continues to be very successful.

Our first At Home at Paignton was held last Thursday. Miss Mordan was the speaker, and I took the chair. At the close of the meeting I asked for funds to start a local shop for sale of our colours, &c., and £16 was promised.

Anyone willing to assist in this campaign, or to subscribe towards the Torquay shop, should write to me, care of Mrs. Smith, Osney-crescent, Paignton.

E. N. Howey.

LANCASHIRE.

Office: 116, Portland-street, Manchester.

At Homes.

Manchester: Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Tuesdays, 4-6.
" " " " Fridays, 8-10.
Liverpool: 48, Mount Pleasant, Tuesdays, 8-10.
Preston: Glovers Court, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

Important Event.

Manchester: Free Trade Hall, Tuesday, January 19, 1909,
Christabel Pankhurst.

The preparations for the Free Trade Hall meeting (described on page 170) concluded with a Stewards' At Home on Tuesday. This was also the first of our afternoon At Homes, and we want friends to assist us in making the series as great a success as the evening At Homes; and we want, too, as far as possible, to draw upon the time of all those people who are not yet represented at the evening At Homes on Fridays.

On Wednesday Mrs. Ratcliffe, as captain of the collecting arrangements, and Mrs. Chatterton at the head of the literature sellers, had a very busy time all the evening.

And now, one campaign having been finished, another must be begun. We shall call the new one the "Christabel Pankhurst Campaign," in honour of the great meeting fixed for Tuesday, January 19 next, when this time, we hope, Miss Pankhurst will not be "detained by the Government." Tickets on sale next week at the usual prices. The Friday At Home was ably addressed by Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., who spoke on "The By-election Policy," and Mrs. Martel, Mrs. Ratcliffe presiding in my absence. At Home cards will be ready in a few days so that members may invite friends for the day most convenient to them. On Saturday a party of Manchester, Preston, Rochdale, and Liverpool members visited Warrington to

protest at Mr. Birrell's meeting, reported on page 166.

Promises of help for the second requisition to the Lord Mayor are coming in well, and next week I hope to make another application to introduce another deputation.

Preparations for the new offices are going ahead, and financial help is urgently needed.

"Tis the utmost thou hast in thee? Out with it then!"

This week's finance (week ending November 28):—Collection, Free Trade Hall (November 6), £27 9s. 6d.; per Mrs. Ratcliffe (from late local W.S.P.U.), £7 7s.; Mary E. Gawthorpe ("Pen-money"), £3 3s.; Mrs. Jackson, £1 1s.; Mrs. Humphreys, £1; A. Grinwood, Esq., 2s. 6d.; At Home (afternoon), 5s.; Mrs. K. S. Lee, 5s.; At Home (Friday), 11s. 8d.; Members' Guarantee Fund, £1 3s. 6d.—total, £45 8s. 2d.

Next week I hope to send the collecting card receipts and general statement of the Free Trade Hall Campaign.

Mary E. Gawthorpe.

MIDLANDS.

Office and Committee Rooms: No. 14, Ethel-street, Birmingham.

At Homes.

Birmingham, Priory Rooms, Old-square, Tuesday, 7.30.
Birmingham, Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, Wednesday, 3.30.
Wolverhampton, The Baths Assembly Rooms, Thursday, 3.30.

Birmingham.—Our intention of continuing to hold the evening At Homes at 14, Ethel-street, up to Christmas, had to be abruptly altered on Tuesday evening last, when every available chair was occupied, as well as standing room. Therefore, next Tuesday and all succeeding ones, we shall meet, in the Priory Rooms, Old-square, Corporation-street; will members kindly note the change? I would also like to remind them that men as well as women are invited to be present on these occasions.

The address of Mrs. Sibthorpe was followed with the greatest interest, and frequently punctuated with applause; a large quantity of literature was sold, and the largest collection we have yet received taken. In addition, a male sympathiser gave us a contribution of 10s. towards purchasing some of the articles on our "Want List." We have this week to express our thanks and appreciation for several timely gifts, viz., a dozen cups and saucers from Mrs. Kerwood, a gas stove from Mrs. Hill, and three dozen teaspoons from an anonymous donor.

The Speakers' Class meets every Thursday evening at 7.30. Miss Hazel has undertaken the charge of this very important part of our work. We have made very great strides this autumn, and intend to increase our pace and size after Christmas, and we stand in great need of more speakers to carry on the increasing work in the Midlands.

Miss Ryland has kindly consented to act as manageress of our offices in Ethel-street; these have become very well known by now. The sale of literature is most satisfactory, and continues to increase. "Votes for Women" calendars, scarves, ties, purses, &c., in the colours, can be obtained at Ethel-street, and form delightful Christmas gifts.

Saltley.—The recent meetings here are bearing fruit. A number of women who have become interested are arranging to meet each week at each other's houses. Miss Ward, 116, Ralph-road, will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to come to these gatherings, which will be quite informal.

Moseley.—A most interesting meeting took place at King's Heath Council Schools last Thursday evening, where I had been invited to take part in a debate. The large room was thronged with people. On the resolution being put, only three or four voted against it. We were given a round of cheers as we left the building.

Early in January a meeting will be arranged in Moseley; will those able to assist in this neighbourhood send in their names as soon as possible to me, at 14, Ethel-street, Birmingham?

Coventry.—On the morning of Friday, December 4, we are welcoming the return of Miss Lettice Floyd, who represented the Midlands on October 13; she will receive a welcome in Birmingham on Wednesday, December 9. We are very proud of our brave volunteer. Miss Floyd is returning with the usual characteristic of the released Suffragette prisoner—i.e., fired with energy, and she is organising a meeting in Balsall Heath for December 14.

Walsall.—Mrs. Layton and Mrs. Barnard are arranging an At Home in Walsall for Saturday, December 5, at 4.30. Invitation cards can be had on application to Mrs. Layton, at 38, Abbewell-road, Walsall.

I am forwarding the treasurer this week the following:—Collection, £2 7s. 7d. Anonymous donation towards office furniture, 10s. All donations towards the Midland campaign should be addressed to me at 49, Bristol-street, Birmingham.

Gladice G. Keevil

YORKSHIRE.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. Knox, of Keighley, gave an At Home under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union at Somerset Parlour, Godwin-street; Miss Isabel Seymour was the speaker. She dealt with the question from the industrial point of view, and gave many interesting arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage by explaining to her audience the conditions of working women in London and the operation of the Factory Acts, to which she suggested improvements. We are very much indebted to Mrs. Knox and Miss Seymour for the success of the meeting.

Leeds.—Miss Seymour spoke at another successful At Home in the Arts Club, Leeds, on Monday evening. Many new members were made, and much good work planned, including a meeting outside Armley Gaol on the two Saturdays which Mrs. Baines will spend there.

Huddersfield.—On Tuesday evening a very large mass meeting was held in the Town Hall, Huddersfield. Mrs. Key, the secretary, and all the Huddersfield members are to be congratulated on that splendid meeting. The women of Huddersfield were there in greater numbers than ever before in that town, and it is quite easy to see the great progress made in the work there since the demonstration on September 27. Miss Mary Gawthorpe spoke first, and pleaded that women should be more truly valued in the future, and that equal opportunities should be given to them to lead complete lives. Miss Seymour, in what the *Leeds Mercury* describes as one of the best reasoned speeches of the meeting, was listened to attentively and greatly applauded. I spoke on the tactics, and it was easy to see how much in sympathy all the women in the audience were. More than 2,000 women were present.

The sales of literature, under the direction of Mrs. Morton, Miss Burton, and Miss Hall, were very good. In Huddersfield every Saturday the members of the Union have a literature stall in the Market-place, which succeeds extremely well. They have their regular customers, and make fresh ones each week.

Bradford.—Between five and six hundred women assembled in the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, on Wednesday evening to hear Miss Isabel Seymour's address. It was one of the most enthusiastic meetings we have ever had in Bradford. The announcement that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was going to speak in Bradford on December 16 was greeted with applause, as was the announcement of Christabel Pankhurst's release in December. We tried a new scheme of advertising, which consisted of an imitation prison van and an ex-prisoner in prison dress riding through the streets. "Black Maria" was received with great interest, and set everybody talking about votes for women and the women who are in prison.

Tickets for Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's women's meeting are going very well. We want it to be a record day in Bradford. Several members are going out calling up all the town with a bell. Meetings are to be held in every district of Bradford, indoors and outdoors. Miss Mary Gawthorpe is going to speak at two meetings on December 7, at which we hope to dispose of the remainder of the St. George's Hall tickets.

An advertising van with a lantern display at the end will traverse Bradford, calling on the women to rise up and claim their freedom. Pictures of the women's fight for freedom will be shown by the van as well as at Miss Gawthorpe's meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on December 7. Funds are urgently needed for advertising purposes and for lantern slides. These slides cost 2s. each, or 18s. a dozen. Who will pay for one or for a dozen?

Armley.—A demonstration was held outside Armley Gaol on Saturday evening at 7 o'clock. Headed by a band, we marched in procession from City-square, Leeds, to Armley. A huge crowd awaited us on the recreation ground outside the prison. We had two bright naphtha lamps. The band played and the whole crowd sang, making a great effort to reach the ears of Mrs. Baines inside the prison. Cheers were given for Mrs. Baines and for votes for women over and over again. Miss Hartop, Mrs. Swales, and myself were the speakers. We did our best, besides making the crowd hear, to make our voices heard inside. Everywhere great sympathy was shown with the Suffragettes and with Mrs. Baines. We passed a waggone full of footballers along the route, who cheered us as long as we could hear. The women of Armley especially turned out of doors to attend the demonstration. Next Saturday we shall have the demonstration at 3 o'clock. We hope to sing the "Women's Marseillaise," and a new song written by a Leeds Suffragette to the tune of "Scots wha hae."

We are sending to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence the sum of £26, our receipts in Scarborough, and collections to the amount of £211s. Our immediate necessity—a typewriter.

Adela Pankhurst.

SCOTLAND.

Office, 141, Bath-street, Glasgow.

At Homes.

Wednesday, 4 p.m., 24, Shandwick-place, Edinburgh.
Saturday, 3.30 p.m., 141, Bath-street, Glasgow.

Important Events.

December 9, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 10, Charing Cross Hall, Glasgow. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 17, Stirling. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

The wet weather on Sunday made the Cathedral-square meeting impossible, and has had rather a damping effect upon our street sales during the week. As this is inevitable during the winter months, it would be a great help if more members would do what several have done already—i.e., undertake to sell a certain number of VOTES FOR WOMEN every week in any place or way convenient to them, so that if the organised sales are prevented their place is in some way filled. We so often hear of the good done by our paper that we know it is worth while making great efforts to promote its circulation in new channels.

We have now an assortment of leather bags, belts, ties, Christmas cards, &c., made in the Union colours at the office, and would be glad if members and friends would come and see these that they may give their orders for Christmas presents in good time.

This week I am going to Aberdeen, where we hope soon to arrange a big meeting for Miss Helen Ogston, when she comes north. We hope that all Aberdeen members and friends will look out for the date of this, which will be announced later.

G. M. Conolan.

NEWCASTLE.

At Homes.

Wednesday 3 to 5, and 8 to 10—Geosby's Café, Northumberland Street.

Friday 7 to 9.—Meeting for Women, I.L.P. Institute, Chestnut-street, Wallsend.

The event of the week was the Wednesday At Home, when we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Kathleen Brown after her imprisonment. We presented her with the £21 which was raised in her honour while she spent 21 days in prison. This she has presented to the treasurer. Mrs. Atkinson presided, and Miss Brown gave an interesting account of her experiences in Holloway, which, for the benefit of the Campaign Fund, she wished had been longer. At the evening meeting Miss Brown again spoke, and a very instructive paper on the value of the vote from the nurses' point of view was read by Miss Bunting, a trained nurse.

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Wallsend.—The meeting at Wallsend was again most interesting, an open-air meeting being held simultaneously. Both were officered by the voluntary workers, who are so splendidly coming to the fore in Newcastle. On Tuesday Miss Mildred Atkinson took my place in addressing a meeting of co-operative women at Benwell, and had a most successful meeting.

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Volunteers wanted for selling VOTES FOR WOMEN at all meetings. Donations to the Campaign Fund of the North-East of England please send to Miss New, 37, Rye-hill, Newcastle. Besides the £21 fund, we are sending this week to the treasurer £1 17s. 7d. from collections. Those who wish to raise small sums by means of collecting cards, please apply. Newcastle readers please remember to get N.W.S.P.U. calendars and Christmas cards.

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London City W.S.P.U.—We held a splendid meeting in the Holborn Town Hall on Tuesday, November 24, at 8 p.m. The chair was taken by Mrs. Tuke, who made a charming introductory speech, which was enthusiastically received by the audience. The speakers were Mrs. Petrick Lawrence, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Miss Ansell—a recently-released prisoner, who appeared in prison dress. The resolution was carried unanimously with great cheering. Next week we shall be able to announce the profit made on the meeting. Meanwhile, we hope all the members will come to the business meeting, which will be held at 7.45 p.m., Friday night, December 11, at 4, Clements Inn, as we want to discuss what our next piece of work shall be. Fifteen people have taken the collecting books for the Million Sixpences Fund. We hope all our members will take these little books, and do what they can to make this scheme a success.

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M. HARRISON.

Kensington W.S.P.U.—The committees of the Kensington, Hammermith, Chiswick, Barnes, and Richmond W.S.P.U.'s have now completed their arrangements for the large protest meeting at the King's Theatre, Hammermith, on December 12. Miss Mary Gawthorpe is coming to speak, and Mrs. Brownlow and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Tickets at 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and 3d. may now be obtained from the local secretaries and at the box office of the theatre. The assistance of all our friends is needed in selling tickets, distribution of bills, and for some novel forms of advertising, and we hope they will let their local secretaries know what they can do to help both beforehand and on the day itself. The joint meeting in the King's Theatre, Hammermith, being now fixed, we must work hard to interest people in it and fill the theatre. To arrange details of the work we called a special meeting of our helpers at 115, Oakwood-court, kindly lent by Mrs. Charles Kohn for the occasion. Promises of help were speedily forthcoming, many volunteering to call on friends and sell tickets and to address

and distribute envelopes, to give away bills at stations, &c. A big programme of open-air meetings was drawn up, so that we may hold two or three each day from December 1 to 11. We shall be glad of more offers of help in all this work, and hope every one of our members will do their utmost to secure the success of the meeting. Our At Home on Wednesday was crowded with friends to hear Miss Ansell speak on her prison experiences and Miss Evelyn Sharp on the Chelmsford By-election. At this meeting promises of help for our fortnight's campaign were also forthcoming. On Thursday we had a large drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Corbould's, Victoria-road, which was addressed by Miss Evelyn Sharp and Miss Brackenbury. Their speeches were followed by a vigorous discussion led by some of the leaders of the Anti-Suffragist Movement, when many pertinent questions were put and answered.

LOUISE M. EATES.

Leicester W.S.P.U.—A meeting of our members was held at the Welcome Restaurant, Welford-road, on Thursday, November 26, a good muster being present. Great indignation was expressed at the treatment of Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst. A resolution calling upon Mr. Gladstone either to release Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst before Christmas Day, or at least to transfer them to the first division, was carried unanimously. Preparations were started for a whistle drive for members and friends, to take place on Wednesday, December 30, towards raising funds for a great demonstration. We are hoping to have the week before the next session of Parliament with our dear leader, Mrs. Pankhurst, as the chief speaker. We are taking one of the largest halls in Leicester, and are quite confident we shall have an overflow meeting to cope with the thousands of people who will want to see and hear. We are hoping to have an organiser here shortly to help on with the work in Leicester, for we feel there is a great harvest to be reaped here, especially seeing that a branch of the Anti-Suffragists has been formed here. I think they will do us more good than harm.

MRS. HAWKINS.

Stoke-on-Trent W.S.P.U.—On Monday, November 23, I took the affirmative in a debate on Woman's Suffrage, which was held at Trent Vale. This was in accordance with an invitation sent me by the Trent Vale Debating Society, and great interest was displayed in the event, which culminated in a very animated discussion. The Vicar took the chair, Mr. Garton, secretary of the Society, Mr. Sandland, an influential gentleman, and others were the speakers. We lost by two votes only, 18 voting for and 20 against; but the greater part of the audience present did not vote at all. There was really no active opposition. One speaker could only foresee family quarrels if women had the vote, especially at election times; but for the most part the speeches were sincere and unprejudiced. Could more of our own members have attended we should have won. I feel that good work has been done, for interest has been aroused. As I was coming away from the meeting several ladies came to me, and said that they hoped I would consider them sympathetic, but that they had not voted one way or the other because they did not know much about it. I am hoping to enrol them as members, and am shortly to pay them a visit. We are holding an outdoor meeting at Longton on Monday evening, November 30, at 7.30 p.m., and, weather permitting, on Thursday, an open-air meeting at Campbell-place, Stoke-on-Trent. We have numerous plans of propaganda work in hand. We should like to enrol more members, and I wish to inform all persons interested in the women's movement in Stoke and district that literature can be obtained at my address, 22, Penkville-street, Stoke-upon-Trent, to which all enquiries and offers of help should be addressed.

MRS. ADELINE REDFERN-WILDE.

Wimbledon W.S.P.U.—The fourth Sunday afternoon meeting was held on the Common on the 29th, in spite of the damp weather. Addresses by Miss Herion and Mrs. Lorisgnol, as chairman, were well received. The success that has attended these gatherings, started as they were at a season when outdoor meetings had been abandoned, speaks well for the future. Sympathisers living in this neighbourhood are invited to send in their names and addresses to Miss M. Grant, at "Fabo," Marryat-road, Wimbledon. On Friday, December 4, at 8 p.m., the first public meeting indoors will take place at the Lecture Hall, Lingfield-road, Wimbledon, where addresses are to be given by Mrs. Eates, Miss Brackenbury, and Miss Joachim, Dr. F. A. Bather being chairman.

MARGARET GRANT.

TWO CHILDREN'S ESSAYS.

The children of Chelmsford have been writing essays on "Why Women Should Vote." Here is one of them:—

I am so sorry the way you have been treated you and your lady friends. Fancy to be sent to prison for asking for your rights. Why should you not have a vote as well as men? You have to pay the same but my mother and father say the day is not far off when you will get it and Government will be sorry for what they done and let us hope Chelmsford will help a long way towards it.

EDITH ATTERRURY.

I think another is also very interesting. Here it is:—

Why I Think Women Should Have Votes.

God our heavenly Father who is all wise, gave man a woman as a help-mate and also gave her Reason or Brain Power equal to man, and therefore she is expected to use her wisdom for the Benefit of the world, and if used rightly it would be a great Benefit to the World, as women by nature have a kinder nature, and a softer heart than man, and I think if women have votes they would press for more humane laws, than many of our Laws are, at present in this land. Therefore I hope Women will have the right to vote, equal to man, and I hope God will give them wisdom to use them rightly, for the Benefit of the nation.

Aged 12 years.

WILFRED J. EVANS.

I promised these two children I would send their essays to *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

R. M. BILLINGHURST.

Liberal Secessions at Eastbourne.

Mrs. Dilks, the hon. secretary, and others have seceded from the Eastbourne Women's Liberal Association because Mr. Hubert Beaumont, M.P., has put down a motion on the notice paper of the House of Commons against proceeding further with any woman-suffrage motion. Mr. Beaumont, who voted for Mr. Stanger's Bill, has declared definitely that he will no longer support the proposal to grant the Parliamentary vote to women.

YORKSHIRE.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. Knox, of Keighley, gave an At Home under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union at Somerset Parlour, Godwin-street; Miss Isabel Seymour was the speaker. She dealt with the question from the industrial point of view, and gave many interesting arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage by explaining to her audience the conditions of working women in London and the operation of the Factory Acts, to which she suggested improvements. We are very much indebted to Mrs. Knox and Miss Seymour for the success of the meeting.

Leeds.—Miss Seymour spoke at another successful At Home in the Arts Club, Leeds, on Monday evening. Many new members were made, and much good work planned, including a meeting outside Armley Gaol on the two Saturdays which Mrs. Baines will spend there.

Huddersfield.—On Tuesday evening a very large mass meeting was held in the Town Hall, Huddersfield. Mrs. Key, the secretary, and all the Huddersfield members are to be congratulated on that splendid meeting. The women of Huddersfield were there in greater numbers than ever before in that town, and it is quite easy to see the great progress made in the work there since the demonstration on September 27. Miss Mary Gawthorpe spoke first, and pleaded that women should be more truly valued in the future, and that equal opportunities should be given to them to lead complete lives. Miss Seymour, in what the *Leeds Mercury* describes as one of the best reasoned speeches of the meeting, was listened to attentively and greatly applauded. I spoke on the tactics, and it was easy to see how much in sympathy all the women in the audience were. More than 2,000 women were present.

The sales of literature, under the direction of Mrs. Morton, Miss Burton, and Miss Hall, were very good. In Huddersfield every Saturday the members of the Union have a literature stall in the Market-place, which succeeds extremely well. They have their regular customers, and make fresh ones each week.

Bradford.—Between five and six hundred women assembled in the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, on Wednesday evening to hear Miss Isabel Seymour's address. It was one of the most enthusiastic meetings we have ever had in Bradford. The announcement that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was going to speak in Bradford on December 16 was greeted with applause, as was the announcement of Christabel Pankhurst's release in December. We tried a new scheme of advertising, which consisted of an imitation prison van and an ex-prisoner in prison dress riding through the streets. "Black Maria" was received with great interest, and set everybody talking about votes for women and the women who are in prison.

Tickets for Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's women's meeting are going very well. We want it to be a record day in Bradford. Several members are going out calling up all the town with a bell. Meetings are to be held in every district of Bradford, indoors and outdoors. Miss Mary Gawthorpe is going to speak at two meetings on December 7, at which we hope to dispose of the remainder of the St. George's Hall tickets.

An advertising van with a lantern display at the end will traverse Bradford, calling on the women to rise up and claim their freedom. Pictures of the women's fight for freedom will be shown by the van as well as at Miss Gawthorpe's meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on December 7. Funds are urgently needed for advertising purposes and for lantern slides. These slides cost 2s. each, or 18s. a dozen. Who will pay for one or for a dozen?

Armley.—A demonstration was held outside Armley Gaol on Saturday evening at 7 o'clock. Headed by a band, we marched in procession from City-square, Leeds, to Armley. A huge crowd awaited us on the recreation ground outside the prison. We had two bright naphtha lamps. The band played and the whole crowd sang, making a great effort to reach the ears of Mrs. Baines inside the prison. Cheers were given for Mrs. Baines and for votes for women over and over again. Miss Hartopp, Mrs. Swalles, and myself were the speakers. We did our best, besides making the crowd hear, to make our voices heard inside. Everywhere great sympathy was shown with the Suffragettes and with Mrs. Baines. We passed a wagonette full of footballers along the route, who cheered us as long as we could hear. The women of Armley especially turned out of doors to attend the demonstration. Next Saturday we shall have the demonstration at 3 o'clock. We hope to sing the "Women's Marseillaise," and a new song written by a Leeds Suffragette to the tune of "Scots wha hae."

We are sending to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence the sum of £26, our receipts in Scarborough, and collections to the amount of £2 11s. Our immediate necessity—a typewriter.

Adela Pankhurst.

SCOTLAND.

Office, 141, Bath-street, Glasgow.

At Homes.

Wednesday, 4 p.m., 24, Shandwick-place, Edinburgh.
Saturday, 3.30 p.m., 141, Bath-street, Glasgow.

Important Events.

December 9, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 10, Charing Cross Hall, Glasgow.—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 17, Stirling.—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

The wet weather on Sunday made the Cathedral-square meeting impossible, and has had rather a damping effect upon our street sales during the week. As this is inevitable during the winter months, it would be a great help if more members would do what several have done already—i.e., undertake to sell a certain number of VOTES FOR WOMEN every week in any place or way convenient to them, so that if the organised sales are prevented their place is in some way filled. We so often hear of the good done by our paper that we know it is worth while making great efforts to promote its circulation in new channels.

We have now an assortment of leather bags, belts, ties, Christmas cards, &c., made in the Union colours at the office, and would be glad if members and friends would come and see these that they may give their orders for Christmas presents in good time.

This week I am going to Aberdeen, where we hope soon to arrange a big meeting for Miss Helen Ogston, when she comes north. We hope that all Aberdeen members and friends will look out for the date of this, which will be announced later.

G. M. Conolan.

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M. HARRISON.

Kensington W.S.P.U.—The committees of the Kensington, Hammersmith, Chiswick, Barnes, and Richmond W.S.P.U.'s have now completed their arrangements for the large protest meeting at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on December 12. Miss Mary Gawthorpe is coming to speak, and Mrs. Brownlow and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Tickets at 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and 3d. may now be obtained from the local secretaries and at the box office of the theatre. The assistance of all our friends is needed in selling tickets, distribution of bills, and for some novel forms of advertising, and we hope they will let their local secretaries know what they can do to help both beforehand and on the day itself. The joint meeting in the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, being now fixed, we must work hard to interest people in it and fill the theatre. To arrange details of the work we called a special meeting of our helpers at 115, Oakwood-court, kindly lent by Mrs. Charles Ken for the occasion. Promises of help were speedily forthcoming, many volunteering to call on friends and sell tickets and to address

and distribute envelopes, to give away bills at stations, &c. A big programme of open-air meetings was drawn up, so that we may hold two or three each day from December 1 to 11. We shall be glad of more offers of help in all this work, and hope every one of our members will do their utmost to secure the success of the meeting. Our At Home on Wednesday was crowded with friends to hear Miss Ansell speak on her prison experiences and Miss Evelyn Sharp on the Chelmsford By-election. At this meeting promises of help for our fortnight's campaign were also forthcoming. On Thursday we had a large drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Corbould's, Victoria-road, which was addressed by Miss Evelyn Sharp and Miss Brackenbury. Their speeches were followed by a vigorous discussion led by some of the leaders of the Anti-Suffrage Movement, when many pertinent questions were put and answered.

LOUISE M. EATES.

Leicester W.S.P.U.—A meeting of our members was held at the Welcome Restaurant, Welford-road, on Thursday, November 26, a good muster being present. Great indignation was expressed at the treatment of Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst. A resolution calling upon Mr. Gladstone either to release Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst before Christmas Day, or at least to transfer them to the first division, was carried unanimously. Preparations were started for a whistle drive for members and friends, to take place on Wednesday, December 30, towards raising funds for a great demonstration. We are hoping to have the week before the next session of Parliament with our dear leader, Mrs. Pankhurst, as the chief speaker. We are taking one of the largest halls in Leicester, and are quite confident we shall have an overflow meeting to cope with the thousands of people who will want to see and hear. We are hoping to have an organiser here shortly to help on with the work in Leicester, for we feel there is a great harvest to be reaped here, especially seeing that a branch of the Anti-Suffragists has been formed here. I think they will do us more good than harm.

MRS. HAWKINS.

Stoke-on-Trent W.S.P.U.—On Monday, November 23, I took the affirmative in a debate on Woman's Suffrage, which was held at Trent Vale. This was in accordance with an invitation sent me by the Trent Vale Debating Society, and great interest was displayed in the event, which culminated in a very animated discussion. The Vicar took the chair, Mr. Garton, secretary of the Society, Mr. Sandland, an influential gentleman, and others were the speakers. We lost by two votes only, 18 voting for and 20 against; but the greater part of the audience present did not vote at all. There was really no active opposition. One speaker could only foresee family quarrels if women had the vote, especially at election times; but for the most part the speeches were sincere and unprejudiced. Could more of our own members have attended we should have won. I feel that good work has been done, for interest has been aroused. As I was coming away from the meeting several ladies came to me, and said that they hoped I would consider them sympathetic, but that they had not voted one way or the other because they did not know much about it. I am hoping to enrol them as members, and am shortly to pay them a visit. We are holding an outdoor meeting at Longton on Monday evening, November 30, at 7.30 p.m., and, weather permitting, on Thursday, an open-air meeting at Campbell-place, Stoke-on-Trent. We have numerous plans of propaganda work in hand. We should like to enrol more members, and I wish to inform all persons interested in the women's movement in Stoke and district that literature can be obtained at my address, 22, Penkville-street, Stoke-upon-Trent, to which all enquiries and offers of help should be addressed.

MRS. ADELINE REDFERN-WILDE.

Wimbledon W.S.P.U.—The fourth Sunday afternoon meeting was held on the Common on the 29th, in spite of the damp weather. Addresses by Miss Berlon and Mrs. Lonsignol, as chairman, were well received. The success that has attended these gatherings, started as they were at a season when outdoor meetings had been abandoned, speaks well for the future. Sympathisers living in this neighbourhood are invited to send in their names and addresses to Miss M. Grant, at "Fabo," Marryat-road, Wimbledon. On Friday, December 4, at 8 p.m., the first public meeting indoors will take place at the Lecture Hall, Lingfield-road, Wimbledon, where addresses are to be given by Mrs. Eates, Miss Brackenbury, and Miss Joachim, Dr. F. A. Bather being chairman.

MARGARET GRANT.

TWO CHILDREN'S ESSAYS.

The children of Chelmsford have been writing essays on "Why Women Should Vote." Here is one of them:—

I am so sorry the way you have been treated you and your lady friends. Fancy to be sent to prison for asking for your rights. Why should you not have a vote as well as men? You have to pay the same but my mother and father say the day is not far off when you will get it and Government will be sorry for what they done and let us hope Chelmsford will help a long way towards it.

EDITH ATTERBURY.

I think another is also very interesting. Here it is:—

Why I Think Women Should Have Votes.

God our heavenly Father who is all wise, gave man a woman as a help-mate and also gave her Reason or Brain Power equal to man, and therefore she is expected to use her wisdom for the Benefit of the world, and if used rightly it would be a great Benefit to the World, as women by nature have a kinder nature, and a softer heart than man, and I think if women have votes they would press for more humane laws, than many of our Laws are, at present in this land. Therefore I hope Women will have the right to vote, equal to man, and I hope God will give them wisdom to use them rightly, for the Benefit of the nation.

Aged 12 years.

WILFRED J. EVANS.

I promised these two children I would send their essays to *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

R. M. BILLINGHURST.

Liberal Secessions at Eastbourne.

Mrs. Dilks, the hon. secretary, and others have seceded from the Eastbourne Women's Liberal Association because Mr. Hubert Beaumont, M.P., has put down a motion on the notice paper of the House of Commons against proceeding further with any woman-suffrage motion. Mr. Beaumont, who voted for Mr. Stanger's Bill, has declared definitely that he will no longer support the proposal to grant the Parliamentary vote to women.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

As a protest against the Liberal Government for their vindictive treatment of the Suffragists in prison, friends have come forward with special subscriptions to defray the whole cost of the Chelmsford by-election.

At the Queen's Hall the last donation was promised by a Liberal woman residing in the Chelmsford Division. Her gift of £75 will suffice with £90 already raised to clear the entire expense of this by-election campaign. This piece of good news will be conveyed this week to Mrs. Pankhurst by her daughter Sylvia.

An interesting letter from the well-known comedian, Mr. R. G. Knowles, who sends a generous contribution, will be found on page 166.

The subscription list this week is full of interest to those who know the stories connected with those arithmetical figures.

There is space for me to tell one story only. The friends of Miss Kathleen Brown in Newcastle resolved to present her on her return from Holloway with £1 for every day she had spent in prison. This gift of £21 she forwarded to me, wishing her imprisonment had lasted longer than 21 days, for then she would have had more to give.

The members of the Women's Social and Political Union have learned to give because they have learned to love a great ideal.

E. P. L.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £50,000 FUND.

November 23 to December 1.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	25	0	33	5	1
Miss E. B. Ross	1	0	0		
Mrs. E. Vincent	0	2	6		
Miss Olive McKay (doll sold)	0	10	6		
H. M. F. (puddings sold)	0	19	6		
Mrs. Bevan (By-election)	2	0	0		
Miss O. Fargus (diamond ring)	4	15	0		
Anon. (gold chain bracelet and green links)	1	15	0		
A deep Sympathiser (pearl bracelet)	1	10	0		
A Working Woman's Only Trinket (sapphire ring)	1	0	0		
G. H. Pethick, Esq.	10	0	0		
Mrs. E. Roche (By-election)	5	0	0		
Anon. (sale of crocodile and donkey)	0	2	0		
Battersea (collected at Miss Billing's reception)	1	1	0		
E. A. B. (sale of goliwogs)	0	10	0		
Miss A. Farmer (By-election)	0	2	6		
"Many Minds—One Heart" (By-election)	0	10	0		
Lady Knyvett (By-election)	10	0	0		
Miss H. Ayrton (By-election)	20	0	0		
Miss J. McLeod	0	1	0		
Mrs. M. A. Tucker (By-election)	0	3	0		
Mrs. and Mr. Julius Singer	2	2	0		
Miss A. B. Fyfe	2	2	0		
Mrs. Mary Parr (By-election)	1	1	0		
Miss Elsa Gye (By-election)	1	0	0		
Miss Juliette Heale	2	0	0		
Miss Juliette Heale (By-election)	1	0	0		
Miss E. W. T. Prior (cakes sold)	0	5	0		
Nottingham W.S.P.U. (profit on meeting)	10	0	0		
Miss C. H. Sidney Woolf (By-election)	0	2	3		
Anon.	5	0	0		
"Money Saved by Going to Holloway" (By-election)	4	4	0		
Mrs. Corns	1	0	0		
Anon.	1	1	0		
Miss J. C. Methven (By-election)	5	0	0		
Miss Hilda M. Dallas	1	1	0		
Miss M. S. Turner (By-election)	0	2	6		
Scottish W.S.P.U.	2	0	0		
Mrs. F. Reeves	0	2	0		
Miss Phyllis Corns	5	0	0		
Mrs. W. E. Bury	2	0	0		
Miss Allan	0	1	0		
Miss Pantlin (collected at football matches)	0	11	8		
R. G. Knowles, Esq.	15	0	0		
Anon. (By-election)	1	0	0		
The Misses Beck (By-election)	2	0	0		
Miss A. E. Willson (weekly)	1	1	0		
C. Herbert, Esq. (By-election)	1	0	0		
The Misses McGowan (weekly)	0	5	0		
Anon.	1	0	0		
Mrs. J. G. Pollock	5	0	0		
The Misses M. and W. Turner	0	2	6		
Miss Dora A. M. Heckels	1	0	0		
Miss Stella Andjah	2	0	0		
Miss E. W. T. Prior (cakes sold)	0	7	6		
Miss Douglas Smith (lecture fee)	0	15	0		
Per Miss A. Kenney—Miss Dorothy Pethick	5	0	0		
Miss Hughes	5	0	0		
Mrs. Stevens	5	0	0		
Mrs. Enwistle	0	5	0		
Per Miss A. Pankhurst—Miss Kilburn	0	5	0		
Miss Newton	2	3	0		
Presbyterian Church (lecture fee)	0	10	0		
Mrs. Hyde	0	3	6		
Per Miss New—Miss Kathleen Brown's Imprisonment (fund of £1 per day collected in Newcastle)	21	0	0		
Sunderland and Wallsend (travelling expenses, &c.)	0	4	7		
Per Miss Keavil—Lecture fee per W. T. Clift, Esq.	0	15	0		
Nottingham W.S.P.U. (travelling expenses)	0	8	6		
—Barnard, Esq.	0	10	0		
Per Miss Gawthorpe—Manchester W.S.P.U.	7	7	0		
Miss Gawthorpe (pen money)	3	3	0		
Mrs. Jackson	1	1	0		
Mrs. Humphreys	1	0	0		
A. Grinwood, Esq.	0	2	6		
Mrs. Lee	0	5	0		
Members' Guarantee Fund, Manchester	1	3	6		
Membership entrance fees	4	2	6		
Collections, &c.	164	14	11		
Total	£35	395	17	6	

CHRISTABEL PANKHURST'S RELEASE.

In less than three weeks Christabel Pankhurst will be released from imprisonment. Many preparations are being made to give her a loyal welcome. The full plans will be disclosed next week. But in order to enable all our members who wish to do so to take part in a great procession of women, it is necessary to let them know the uniform that they will be expected to wear on that occasion. The uniform will consist of a short walking skirt in purple or in green, a white jersey golf coat, and a purple or green felt hat, trimmed with the colours. At the offices of the Union are a few white golf coats, which can be purchased at 7s. 6d. each, and also a few purple and green felt hats at 1s. 11d. each.

RADICAL INCONSISTENCY.

When crimes of violence have been perpetrated in Ireland by men it has often been a difficult matter to induce Liberal Governments to put the law in motion against these men. In some cases crimes are described as political offences, and the inference has been that there was some justification for them. But when cultured women in England, in pursuit of a reasonable and lawful object, do things which perhaps they ought not to do a Liberal Government keeps them in prison without mercy. If the suffragist agitation had been carried on by men Mr. Gladstone would have found a dozen reasons why the men should not be imprisoned. The men would have votes, and it would be a fearful thing for a Liberal politician to offend anyone who possesses a voting qualification. It might mean the loss of an election. But women have no votes, and, therefore, it is not worth while to bother about them. It is certain, however, that when the present Government has again to appeal to the country the treatment of the suffragists will not be overlooked by some of the people who will then record their votes, including some Liberals. The only reason why the franchise has not been extended to women by the present Government is that some of its supporters fear that a majority of the women would vote on the Conservative side. This is why women suffrage is opposed.—*Nottingham Guardian*, November 18.



Anty Drudge Tells Why Jim Goodfellow Stays Home at Nights.

Mrs. Spieler—"Well, upon my word—did you ever hear! Jim Goodfellow stays home at nights—instead of hurrying out the minute he's had his tea. What can have come over him?"

Anty Drudge—"His wife uses Fels-Naptha now—and her work's done in half the time. Her house isn't choked up with smelly soap-suds and steam, and she's not that dead tired with scrubbing and working she can't get him a decent meal or give him a civil word. Jim's got a comfortable home now—something he didn't have before his wife used Fels-Naptha."

If you start *right* with Fels-Naptha soap you will be done for ever with ordinary laundry soaps.—You will say goodbye to the disagreeable drudgery of wash-day.—You will save half the time and half the strength you used to spend at the wash-tub.—You will have cleaner, purer clothes, a sweeter disposition, and

a house free of suds-steam.

But if you get started *wrong* with Fels-Naptha, if you boil the clothes and use Fels-Naptha soap in hot water, you'll say it's no better than other soaps!

Of course, it's hard to believe, if you have always washed with hot water.

Why not let Fels-Naptha do it?
Fels-Naptha
will do it. Isn't it worth trying?

FACING THE MUSIC AT IPSWICH.

For nearly an hour and a-half Miss Sylvia Pankhurst refused to be shouted down. With very real courage she clung to her speech and her argument, and seized every opportunity to her advantage. Neither songs, nor bells, nor rattles, nor sulphuretted hydrogen, nor the uproar of frequent fights in progress could turn her from her purpose. That is typical of the movement; that is how and why it exists. And though the youths who turned from the Hippodrome to the Public Hall for a night's cheap amusement were unable to see it, it was Miss Pankhurst's pluck in facing the music which made for the cause she has at heart a more favourable impression than anything else could have done. Pluck—and patience—and Pankhurst!

(Evening Star and Daily Herald, Nov. 25.)

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